

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 20 June 2008

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#### WORK ON A PRIMARY CARE STRATEGY IS FULL OF POTENTIAL

Professor John Wakerman, Chair of the National Rural Health Alliance, says the comprehensive review of primary care and Medicare, announced by Minister Roxon, is a decision of major potential importance for the health of people in rural and remote areas. The Alliance is delighted that the External Reference Group for the work will be chaired by Tony Hobbs, a GP obstetrician at Cootamundra.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/primary%20care%20strategy%2012%20june.pdf> and is reproduced below.

The Rudd Government will develop a National Primary Health Care Strategy to better tackle the health challenges of the 21st century, and make sure that families can get the health care they need. Work on the strategy will link with current related health reform processes, including the COAG Health and Ageing Working Group, development of the Australian Health Care Agreements, the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission, and the Preventative Health Strategy. The full text of the announcement by Health Minister Nicola Roxon is at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-nr-nr096.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2008&mth=6>

A joint statement from the AMA, RACGP, RDAA and ACRRM said that The Government's proposed National Primary Care Strategy should ensure that Australians continue to have access to high-quality general practice services; general practices are given additional support to allow them to deliver more preventative health care services and tackle the growing burden of chronic disease; general practice is the gateway to allow patients enhanced access to other

health professionals; primary health care services in workforce shortage areas such as rural Australia are improved through incentives and assistance to get more general practitioners and primary health care teams in these parts of the country; and general practice training opportunities and incentives are enhanced so that many of the new medical school graduates choose to enter general practice over the next few years. The full text of the statement is at <http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-7FP5EP>

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## FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Federal Government has signalled that it is likely to continue with the controversial intervention in the Northern Territory that was put in place by the Howard government a year ago this week. The full text of the statement by Indigenous Affairs Minister, Jenny Macklin, is at

[http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/one\\_year\\_on\\_20jun08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/one_year_on_20jun08.htm) and a transcript of her remarks is at [http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nt\\_emergency\\_response\\_19june08.htm](http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/nt_emergency_response_19june08.htm)

The One Year On report recommendations included annual health checks for children and investment in housing in remote Indigenous communities. Major recommendations of the report include: health checks for all children on an annual basis which requires adequate resourcing of the primary health care system; additional investment to alleviate overcrowding in remote communities in the Northern Territory, while ensuring that the design and location of new housing is economically viable as well as culturally and environmentally appropriate; government funded mediators to work with communities to find resolutions for internal issues; the creation of 'real jobs' in communities; a community store in each viable community; and increasing the number of police in communities so that every community is adequately serviced. The report is available at [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/nter/one\\_year\\_on.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/nter/one_year_on.htm)

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## EATING DISORDERS: A HOLISTIC APPROACH

Live Satellite TV broadcast Produced by the Rural Health Education Foundation

Wednesday 25th June 2008 at 8.00pm AEST (Repeated Friday 27th June 12:30pm AEST)

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Although we often associate eating disorders with teenage girls, recent research indicates that many people in Australia with eating disorders are in their thirties or older and have a history of problems with weight and body image. The incidence is also increasing among young men and teenage boys. This program examines eating disorders such as binge eating, bulimia and anorexia nervosa, outlines the latest research and explores various approaches to treatment and management. It emphasises the need for a co-ordinated approach to management involving GPs, dietitians, psychologists and other health professionals. It also discusses the support available for people with eating disorders, their families and carers and explores the

particular issues faced by patients and health professionals in rural areas.

Further program information, resources and detailed broadcast times can be found by clicking <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/812/812.html>

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#### RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION BROADCAST ON SBS TV

SBS television has selected a Rural Health Education Foundation program on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder for an encore screening at 1.00pm on Monday 23 June.

"Drinking for Two?" is a half-hour documentary which poses the question "Is it safe to drink at all while you're pregnant?"

The program profiles a number of people affected by Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, along with their families. Cases studies are used to illustrate the issues for children, adults and Indigenous communities in particular. The program is presented by Julie McCrossin, former presenter of ABC Radio National's Life Matters, and includes experts Professor Elizabeth Elliot (The Children's Hospital at Westmead, NSW), Ms Lorian Hayes (National Indigenous Australian Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Education Network) and Dr Lara Wieland (Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, QLD).

"Drinking for Two?" is also available for purchase from the Rural Health Education Foundation DVD and VHS video and can be experienced online via video webstreaming and audio podcast. For more information, go to <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/708/708.html>

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#### 10th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The 10th National Rural Health Conference will be held in Cairns in May 2009. Keep an eye on our website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/conferences/docs/10thNRHC/10thNRHC.htm> for up-to-date information about the Conference. The first announcement will be the Call for Abstracts in mid 2008.

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#### PARTYline Newsletter

The March 2008 version of PARTYline is now available. Contents include:

- \* The full agenda on the rural health workforce challenge
- \* Calls for further debate about professional scopes of practice, multi-disciplinary teams and the design of training systems for health professionals.
- \* Reports on the forthcoming Federal Budget, the Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, ambulance services, allied health and the work-life balance of general practitioners.
- \* A two-page spread on 'Advice to the Health Minister' from friends of the Alliance.

PARTYline is available at

[http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/publications/partyline\\_32\\_08.pdf](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/publications/partyline_32_08.pdf)

Calling for articles for the next issue of *Partyline* (#33)

The next edition of *Partyline* will be out soon - if you would like to contribute an article please send it to the *Partyline* Editor by 21 June - [partyline@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:partyline@ruralhealth.org.au)

Electronic versions of *Partyline* are always available in the 'Publications' section of our website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntContId=57&IntCatId=6>

The Alliance's newsletter, PARTYline, is a means of exchanging information between those with an interest in rural health, including friends of the Alliance, health consumers, health professionals, students and policy makers. Contributors report on their personal rural experiences, on programs with which they have been involved, provide information on new initiatives and resources, and it is a vehicle for opinions on rural health issues and events.

PARTYline has a print circulation around Australia of 13,000 and is also available on-line below. PARTYline readily accepts contributions from readers - articles (up to 500 words) and photographs can be sent to [partyline@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:partyline@ruralhealth.org.au)

The electronic version of Partyline is also available in the 'Publications' section of our website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntContId=57&IntCatId=6>

If you don't receive Partyline but would like to, send your contact details to [nrha@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:nrha@ruralhealth.org.au) and let us know if you'd prefer a hard copy in the mail or email notification of its availability on the webpage.

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**RDAA STATEMENT**

RDAA calls on Prime Minister to intervene in SA country hospital crisis

17 June 2008

[http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded\\_documents/RDAA%20calls%20on%20PM%20to%20intervene%20in%20SA%20country%20hospital%20crisis%20--%2017%20June%202008.pdf](http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20calls%20on%20PM%20to%20intervene%20in%20SA%20country%20hospital%20crisis%20--%2017%20June%202008.pdf)

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The Australian Journal of Rural Health is a multidisciplinary journal, which aims to facilitate the formation of interdisciplinary networks to build and advance rural practice for all health professionals.

Get published in the *Australian Journal of Rural Health*!

The Journal welcomes short reports and letters to the editor as well as review articles, original research articles and clinical perspectives. For useful tips on submitting your manuscript, read the FREE editorial, *How to get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health*.

Manuscripts can be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh> Manuscript Central or posted to:

AJRH Editorial Office  
Australian Journal of Rural Health  
550 Swanston Street  
Carlton VIC 3053

June 2008 issue now available. Contents include:

Editorial -May you live in interesting times!  
Review Article - Extended scope practitioners and clinical specialists: A place in rural health?  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's experience when interacting with the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale: A brief note  
Effects of a 12-month exercise program on cardiorespiratory health indicators of Vietnam War veterans resident in the tropics  
Exploring the barriers and enablers to attendance at rural cardiac rehabilitation programs  
Risk behaviours and blood borne virus exposure for transient workers in rural Victoria  
Rural pharmacy in New Zealand: Effects of a compulsory externship on student perspectives and implications for workforce shortage  
Profile of the rural allied health workforce in Northern New South Wales and comparison with previous studies  
Using overseas registered nurses to fill employment gaps in rural health services: Quick fix or sustainable strategy?  
Partnerships to promote mental health of NSW farmers: The New South Wales Farmers Blueprint for Mental Health  
Community perception of childhood drowning and its prevention measures in rural Bangladesh: A qualitative study  
Short Report - Geographical location and sunburn in Queensland adults  
Grazings  
Reducing serious delays in diagnosis of younger onset dementia  
PHC RIS: Supporting those juggling the dual roles of practitioner and researcher  
From the Journal Associates - ARNM: Give us a voice and you will reap the rewards

Further information at <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/ajr>

Students and researchers keen to learn more about the changing facts surrounding Indigenous health are encouraged to consult the 2008 'virtual issue' of the prestigious *Australian Journal of Rural Health*. Freely available through the website <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/ajr> readers can access 22 key reports published in the last decade covering some of the most pressing topics in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

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#### AIHW REPORT

Elective surgery access depends on where you are, who you are, and why you need surgery  
A new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) examines how rates of access to elective surgery differ between patient groups. The report, *Elective surgery in Australia: new measures of access*, found that people living in remote areas and those in the more disadvantaged socioeconomic groups made use of publicly-funded elective surgery at higher rates than other people. Conversely, people living in major cities and those in the more advantaged socioeconomic groups had higher rates of privately-funded elective surgery than other people.

The AIHW statement is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2008/mr20080611.cfm> and the full publication is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10596>

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Join friends of the Alliance in 2007. By joining friends you will receive the updated CD 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2007', a 2007 friends certificate, and regular issues of PARTYline newsletter. Membership of friends would also give you the opportunity to be involved more closely with the Alliance's information dissemination and policy work. You will become part of a group of people who contribute to and support the work of the National Rural Health Alliance.

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LIFELINE INFORMATION SERVICE - 1300 13 11 14

Your Rural Mental Health Information Service

Lifeline's Information Service is a rural mental health information service. Information provided includes: referral to services and web sites, printed material and a range of self help resources. The self-help resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health in a range of areas. For information and copies of resources call or visit <http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice> and further information is available at [infoservice@lifeline.org.au](mailto:infoservice@lifeline.org.au) and <http://www.lifeline.org.au>

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From: druginfo2

Subject: The role of parents in the prevention of alcohol-related harm among young people

The Australian Drug Foundation's DrugInfo Clearinghouse is pleased to announce the release of its latest suite of publications and free seminar on July 16th. For more information, or to join the Clearinghouse go to [www.druginfo.adf.org.au](http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au) or use the links below.

The role of parents in the prevention of alcohol-related harm among young people  
The misuse of alcohol in adolescence is linked to increased risk of alcohol dependence and other social and health inequalities in adulthood. Many factors influence the drinking behaviour of young people and one of the most important of these is their relationship with their parents. Health professionals have an important role in supporting families and carers concerned about preventing alcohol-related harm in their children.

DrugInfo newsletter

DrugInfo newsletter volume 6 number 2, spotlights some of the programs and projects that are aimed at helping families and young people prevent and minimise alcohol-related harms in adolescence.

Prevention Research Quarterly Issues Paper

The issues paper by Bernadette Ward and Pamela Snow, provides a description of some of the issues facing families and young people in relation to the harmful use of alcohol. It also identifies the range of practical prevention and early intervention strategies available to those working with families to prevent and reduce these harms.

Reading and Resource List

The reading and resource list has been prepared as a starting point for researchers, educators and other professionals seeking current research and information relating to the role of parents in the prevention of alcohol related harm among young people.

Free seminar - Alcohol and young people: the role of parents  
The DrugInfo Clearinghouse will be hosting a free interactive seminar and forum titled "Alcohol and young people: the role of parents" that will explore some of the issues raised in the issues paper.

10.00 am to 12.30 pm (registration & refreshments from 9.30 am)

Wednesday 16 July 2008

Angliss Conference Centre

William Angliss Institute of TAFE

Level 5, 555 La Trobe Street (cnr King St.), Melbourne

Places are strictly limited, so you are advised to book early. Bookings close at 4 pm on Tuesday, 8 July 2008.

For more information, or to book your place, tel. 1300 85 85 84 or send your name, organisation and contact phone number to email [druginfo@adf.org.au](mailto:druginfo@adf.org.au)

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#### BUSH CRISIS LINE - 1800 805 391

Bush Crisis Line is a twenty-four hour confidential telephone support and debriefing service for multi-disciplinary remote and rural health practitioners and their families. It is staffed by qualified psychologists with remote and cross-cultural experience, is toll free and available from anywhere in Australia. For more information <http://www.bushcrisisline.org.au>

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#### AUSTRALIA'S REGIONS REVEALED

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia, Gary Gray, launched About Australia's Regions 2008 pocket guide of regional statistics at the 3rd Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) Regional Perspectives Conference in Canberra. The publication is at

[http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/gg/releases/2008/june/gg003\\_2008\\_attach.htm](http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/gg/releases/2008/june/gg003_2008_attach.htm) and

Gary Gray's statement is at

<http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/gg/releases/2008/june/index.htm>

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#### RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB

(From Google Alert, <http://www.googlealert.com>)

Rural Health < Medicine in the Yahoo! Directory

Yahoo! reviewed these sites and found them related to Medicine > Rural Health

[http://d1.dir.ac2.yahoo.com/Health/Medicine/Rural\\_Health/](http://d1.dir.ac2.yahoo.com/Health/Medicine/Rural_Health/)

NRHA - National Rural Health Association Home Page

The National Rural Health Association's (NRHA) Quality and Clinical Conference. <http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/>

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From: Adrienne Hallam

Subject: Details for NHHRC community engagement forums

Below are the details for the Commission's community engagement forums:

Thursday 5 June - 6.00pm-9.00pm - Parramatta Sydney

Wednesday 11 June - 6.00pm-9.00pm - Alice Springs

Monday 16 June - 6.00pm-9.00pm - Cairns

Thursday 19 June - 6.00pm-9.00pm - Brisbane

Thursday 24 June - 6.00pm-9.00pm - Melbourne

Thursday 26 June - 6.00pm-9.00pm - Shepparton

Wednesday 2 July - 6.00pm-9.00pm - Darwin

Tuesday 8 July - 6.00pm-9.00pm - Perth

Wednesday 9 July - 6.00pm-9.00pm - Adelaide

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mail: MDP 101, PO Box 685, Woden, ACT, 2606

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#### RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

(From ABC Health Updates, <http://abcmail.net.au/t/73489/614869/1366/0/>)

#### Macklin to consider NT alcohol management plan

The taskforce running the federal intervention into remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory has recommended alcohol bans be scrapped in favour of management plans.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/22/2281897.htm>

#### Proposed funding snub raises Indigenous activists' ire

Indigenous activists are outraged at the suggestion economically unviable remote communities could miss out on funding.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/21/2281818.htm>

#### Rudd stands by NT Indigenous intervention

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has told the Queensland ALP Conference on the Gold Coast the Government remains committed to the Northern Territory Indigenous intervention.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/21/2281779.htm>

#### Taskforce heads reflect on intervention anniversary

The first anniversary of the Commonwealth intervention comes amid calls to scrap the initiative altogether and contrasting calls to broaden its scope.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/21/2281620.htm>

#### Expand the intervention, urges Brough

Former federal Indigenous affairs minister Mal Brough says the intervention should be

extended beyond the Northern Territory's borders.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/21/2281591.htm>

Commissioner calls on Govt to abandon NT intervention  
NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Tony Fitzgerald says the Federal intervention into remote Aboriginal communities should be abandoned.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/20/2281473.htm>

Welfare linked to school attendance under new NT trial  
The Federal Government has unveiled its next step in the Northern Territory Intervention, announcing six communities will trial linking welfare payments to school attendance.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/20/2280990.htm>

Indigenous children still vulnerable: report author  
The co-author of a report into sexual abuse in Indigenous communities says children are still vulnerable.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/20/2280565.htm>

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS HEALING FUND FOR STOLEN GENERATIONS  
(Lateline: 17/06/2008)  
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/180239/614869/3760/0/>

AMA ENDS NT INTERVENTION ROLE (The World Today: 16/06/2008)  
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/180239/614869/3765/0/>

AMA pulls out of NT intervention  
Australia's peak doctors' group has withdrawn from any future role in the Northern Territory intervention.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/15/2274925.htm>

NT intervention sparks 'new arrogance' in police  
The North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) says there has been an increase in racial discrimination in communities since the Commonwealth Intervention was launched last year.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/14/2274717.htm>

Qld 'should consider' NT-style intervention  
A Queensland child rights advocacy group says it would support a Northern Territory-style intervention in Cape York.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/14/2274678.htm>

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RURAL HEALTH REVOLT IN SA  
(<http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/article/793237.aspx>)

The South Australian Government's Country Health Plan, which will dramatically reduce health services at more than 40 regional hospitals in the State, is continuing to draw harsh criticism from rural health professionals and community groups. This culminated in a

significant rally at Parliament House, with up to 1000 people travelling to Adelaide to protest against the plan.

A full report on the health plan and the on-going protests will appear in the June 26 issue of *Stock Journal*, SA.

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#### ARTICLE IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'From enrolled nurse to registered nurse in the rural setting: the graduate nurse experience' What is it like to return to a workplace with a new qualification that comes with higher community expectations? This eloquent qualitative study explores the difficulties experienced by enrolled nurses who become registered nurses while working in a rural community.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=900>

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#### SELECTED HEALTH OCCUPATIONS: AUSTRALIA, 2006 (ABS 4819.0)

This snapshot provides an overview of Australia's health workforce, covering Generalist medical practitioners, Specialists, Dental practitioners, and Nurses (including midwives). According to the 2006 Census, there were 55,063 people working as Medical practitioners, 35,452 (around two-thirds) of whom were Generalist medical practitioners and 18,259 of whom were Specialists. There were also 9,071 people working as Dental practitioners and 219,788 people working as Nurses. Details are at

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4819.0?OpenDocument>

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#### CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA, 16 June 2008

(Available at <http://www.mja.com.au/>)

From the Editor's Desk: Modish moments in medicine

Editorial - Evidence-based advocacy: the public roles of health care professionals

Editorial - Acute coronary syndromes: exploring the best way forward in optimising care

Editorial - Cardiac repolarisation: the long and short of it

Research - Invasive management and late clinical outcomes in contemporary Australian management of acute coronary syndromes: observations from the ACACIA registry

Research - Causes of death in young Australians with type 1 diabetes: a review of coronial postmortem examinations

Research - Impact of an ultrabroadband emergency department telemedicine system on the care of acutely ill patients and clinicians' work

Research - Patterns and incidence of  $\alpha$ -hydroxybutyrate (GHB)-related ambulance attendances in Melbourne, Victoria

Health Care - Cardiac rehabilitation program attendance after coronary artery bypass surgery: overcoming the barriers

For Debate - Preventive health reform: what does it mean for public health?

Public Health - The changing face of the Australian population: growth in centenarians  
Notable Cases - Takotsubo cardiomyopathy complicated by Dressler's syndrome  
Snapshot - In-vivo characterisation of coronary atherosclerosis with optical coherence tomography  
Letters  
Postpartum haemorrhage occurrence and recurrence: a population-based study  
Rural maternity units: how will they have a future?  
The national inpatient medication chart: critical audit of design and performance at a tertiary hospital  
Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA): "missing the wood for the trees"  
Paragonimiasis: an unusual case of haemoptysis  
Changing perceptions of solar radiation and cancer risk: the role of the media  
National health reform needs strategic investment in health services research  
Supplement - Depression and primary care

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### PREVENTING FALL INJURIES FOR FARMERS OVER 55

Federal Minister for Ageing, Mrs Justine Elliot has launched a guide aimed at reducing the number of serious and potentially fatal falls experienced by Australian farmers over 55 while working on their farms. The Minister's statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-je-je081.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2008&month=6> and the guide is at [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/7C36481601E2777FCA257465001CCC55/\\$File/preventing%20falls%20poster.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/7C36481601E2777FCA257465001CCC55/$File/preventing%20falls%20poster.pdf)

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From: McLean, Cherie  
Subject: Australia's health 2008 conference

*How are we going? How do we know?*  
Reserve your place for *Australia's health 2008* - the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's major biennial health conference providing insights into the health of Australia.

National Convention Centre - Canberra  
Monday 23 June - Welcome Dinner  
Tuesday 24 June - Conference

The program has been finalised and registrations are NOW open.

Guarantee your copy of *Australia's health 2008* - an essential reference and resource for all Australians with an interest in health, by registering for the conference.  
Registration Cost \$440 (inc. GST)  
Details at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/eventsdiary/ah08/index.cfm>

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Success stories: *Environmental, social, emotional & spiritual health* of Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islanders

CRC for Aboriginal Health is co-hosting a 1 day satellite workshop of Population Health in Brisbane Sunday 6th of July. CRCAH Research Director Professor Ian Anderson will be presenting a Plenary session. For more information and registration details [view flier at http://www.crcah.org.au/events/downloads/Congress-08-Indigenous-health-wshop-rego-v3-2.pdf](http://www.crcah.org.au/events/downloads/Congress-08-Indigenous-health-wshop-rego-v3-2.pdf).

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INAUGURAL RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM  
6-8 July 2008, Brisbane

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POPULATION HEALTH CONGRESS 2008  
A Global World - Practical action for health and Well-being

The Population Health Congress 2008 will be held on July 6-9 in the Brisbane Convention and exhibition Centre. Regular updates on Congress 2008 will be available at <http://www.populationhealthcongress.org.au> - log on to register your interest.

The Population Health Congress 2008 is for everyone working in Population Health in Australia and New Zealand - abstracts will be accepted over the full range of public health, health promotion and epidemiological topics.

Conference Coordinators  
PO Box 139  
Calwe ll ACt 2905  
Ph (02) 6292 9000  
[congress2008@confco.com.au](mailto:congress2008@confco.com.au)

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NAIDOC Week celebrations for 2008 will be held from 6 to 13 July. Further information at <http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

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2008 Fulbright Symposium Emerging Leaders Forum 12 July 2008  
Hosted by The CRC for Aboriginal Health and Flinders Unversity, Adelaide

The mission of the Emerging Leaders Program is to inspire and motivate people who are emerging or potential leaders in their communities and who are committed to promoting healthy communities and building a prosperous country to take action to address health inequity and the social determinants of health in their own communities. Read more at <http://som.flinders.edu.au/FUSA/PublicHealth/fulbright/emergingleaders.htm>

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2nd NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE - "FROM BABIES TO BLOKES: THE MAKING OF MEN"

MAN, the Men's Advisory Network, Western Australia's peak men's organisation, will host their second national conference entitled 'from babies to blokes: the making of men' in Fremantle, Western Australia in August 2008. The Men's Advisory Network (MAN) is the peak body for service providers, organisations and individuals concerned with men's health, wellbeing and other issues affecting males of all ages in Western Australia. With nine outstanding keynote speakers already confirmed, this conference will be an important learning experience for all those who work with men and boys. A new understanding of manhood is essential to improving the wellbeing of the whole community. We invite your participation. The Call for Papers is available online <http://www.promaco.com.au/2008/man/>

The Men's Advisory Network Inc. 2nd National Conference Fremantle, Western Australia Esplanade Hotel 3-6 August 2008

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Continence Awareness Week 3 to 9 August 2008  
Website <http://www.continence.org.au>

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RANZCOG 2008 Australian Indigenous Women's Health Meeting  
14-16 August 2008, Darwin

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) is convening an Indigenous women's health meeting, with the aim of bringing together health professionals across the country with the common interest and desire to improve the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.  
<http://www.crcah.org.au/communication/news.html#RAZ>

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9th INTERNATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

14-16 August 2008, Holiday Inn, Gold Coast.  
The revised link for access to the conference website and for abstract submissions is  
Conference website: <http://www.gcimh.com.au/conference/>  
Abstract Submission [http://astmanagement.com.au/gcimhforms/MH\\_Abstract.asp](http://astmanagement.com.au/gcimhforms/MH_Abstract.asp)

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2008 SARRAH CONFERENCE

2008 National SARRAH Conference: Many Paddocks One Herd. 27-30 August 2008, Yeppoon, Central Queensland  
Registrations are now open for the 2008 SARRAH Conference.  
<http://www.sarrah.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=87530>  
This conference is the peak opportunity for rural and remote allied health and oral health

professionals to come together and present, discuss, debate and summarise the elements of their professional lives that bind them together.

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Insights & Solutions: 2nd International conference

INSIGHTS and SOLUTIONS: the combined 2nd International Conference on Alcohol and Other Drug Related Brain Injury and the Brain Injury Australia National Conference 2008 (Melbourne, Australia, Monday 1 - Wednesday 3 September 2008). As you may already know, leading acquired brain injury organisations, arbias and Brain Injury Australia, have joined forces to bring you this exciting and informative three day event. The combined conference recognises the need for innovative approaches and improved practice in the field of acquired brain injury and this will feature throughout the conference program. The overarching theme, INSIGHTS and SOLUTIONS, will provide a focal point for exploring all facets of acquired brain injury and presents an opportunity for people with acquired brain injury, their families and carers, clinicians, professional workers, researchers and policy makers to: -access cutting edge national and international research -drive education and prevention campaigns -build stronger treatment and support networks. Online registration is now open via this link <https://www.secureregistrations.com/brain08/>. For more information: <http://www.arbias.org.au> or <http://www.bia.net.au> or email [events@adf.org.au](mailto:events@adf.org.au) or phone (03) 9728 8137

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CRANA Conference 2008  
Australia's Remote Health Challenge: Is Primary Health Care the solution?  
11 - 14 September 2008  
Cairns, Queensland  
More information at <http://www.crana.org.au/cr.php?ID=9>

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2008 AIDA Symposium - Our Culture, Our Kids, Our Future  
Saturday 4 October, 2008  
Darwin  
Information at <http://www.aida.org.au/news.asp?id=30>

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National Preventive Health Summit  
15-16 October 2008  
Swissotel Sydney  
Information at: tel (02) 9080-4090, [info@iir.com.au](mailto:info@iir.com.au)  
<http://iir.com.au/nphs/dm>

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The 2008 School of Rural Health Research Conference  
Chronic Disease Management in Rural Areas

16 October 2008  
School of Rural Health, Shepparton, Victoria  
More information at  
<http://www.ruralhealth.unimelb.edu.au/announcements/conference/index.htm>

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17th National Conference on Incontinence - 5 to 8 November 2008 - Grand Chancellor Hotel,  
Hobart  
Website <http://www.continence.org.au>

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ARNM's 2008 Annual Conference  
Rural Nurses and Midwives: There's No Stopping Us Now  
6 - 7 November 2008  
Glenelg Adelaide, South Australia  
More information at <http://www.arnm.asn.au/index.php?/content/view/62/99/>

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NAIDOC Week celebrations for 2009 will be held from 5 to 12 July. Further information at  
<http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

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**CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER**

The NRHA e-forum is published fortnightly. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health concerns. Please send contributions to the moderator at [grovesc@winshop.com.au](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au) (do not "reply" to this email - send contributions to [grovesc@winshop.com.au](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au)). Contributions received by the Friday of publication will be included in the e-forum.

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. As such, the Alliance does not control postings and the contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Alliance. Nor do postings necessarily reflect the view of Jim Groves or any organisation he is associated with. Jim Groves can be contacted at [grovesc@winshop.com.au](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au)

Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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**NRHA MEDIA RELEASE**

Work on a primary care strategy is full of potential  
12 June 2008

Professor John Wakerman, Chair of the National Rural Health Alliance, says the comprehensive review of primary care and Medicare, announced yesterday by Minister Roxon, is a decision of major potential importance for the health of people in rural and

remote areas. The Alliance is delighted that the External Reference Group for the work will be chaired by Tony Hobbs, a GP obstetrician at Cootamundra.

"We welcome the Government's recognition that the current primary care system often works poorly, especially in times of acute doctor shortage, in rural and remote communities and in low income areas," Prof Wakerman said.

"In rural and remote communities, current Medicare expenditure per person lags well behind the national average, in spite of health being poorer overall in those areas.

"We need to ensure that the skills of all health professionals are available to people regardless of where they live, and that payment is from the public purse for those who have clinical need but cannot afford to buy private services or do not have local access. This may be through Medicare or other means," he said.

In its recent submission to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission the Alliance argues that people should have access, at no-cost or low-cost, to whichever clinician can cost-effectively and safely provide each of the clinical interventions required.

Doctors are overworked in many areas and some of them have had to close their books. Many of them will welcome this inquiry - hoping for changes that will allow them to focus on the patients requiring their care. At the same time the primary care system should ensure that people needing the services of a nurse, psychologist, paramedic, dietitian or physiotherapist can get quick and subsidised access to their services.

Health professionals should adopt a team approach as far as possible and ensure that patients have ready access to the right treatment with minimal red tape. This approach to primary care already exists in some rural and remote areas, but there is insufficient investment in its infrastructure and staff.

Access to regular dental care is a major primary care need that requires much more attention. This is the area of most disadvantage for many rural, low income and Indigenous people.

The review might also look at student recruitment, training and incentive issues, to ensure that future health professionals are attracted to areas where they are most needed.