



NATIONAL RURAL  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE INC.

**Rural and Remote Area Nursing Project**  
an initiative of the nursing organisations of the NRHA,  
in conjunction with ACDN, ANC, CATSIN, the NRHN and RCNA

## Media Release

4 December 2003

### Peak Rural and Remote Nursing Group Welcomes Taskforce

The Rural and Remote Area Nursing Project has welcomed the establishment of the National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce by the Australian Health Ministers' Conference.

“Nurses at all levels and in all contexts will keenly await the outcomes from the work of this Taskforce. We look forward to working closely with its members to ensure that rural and remote nursing issues are well addressed”, said David Lindsay, Chair of the Project Committee.

Many of the recommendations in the Report from the National Review of Education are of direct interest to nurses in rural and remote areas. We therefore want to see action on those recommendations and the new Taskforce will be a key body to deliver that action. The national project led by AARN, the ANF and CRANA has been underway since September 2001. It also involves other key national nursing organisations, and the National Rural Health Network and the National Rural Health Alliance.

“We hope that the work of the Taskforce will lead the way on a number of important issues. Its work will be important to the activities of the Rural and Remote Nursing Project, as we implement the recommendations in our 7-Point Plan for rural and remote nursing”, Mr Lindsay said.

We urgently need a coherent national policy agenda to support rural and remote nurses. Issues surrounding the implementation of Nurse Practitioner models in rural and remote areas, the nursing workforce in aged care in rural and remote areas and developing the professional image of rural and remote nursing are also topics that require critical action.

“This new Taskforce has been a long time coming, but we are optimistic that it will act efficiently and effectively to bring about positive reform for all nurses in this country”.

**Further information:** David Lindsay, Chair  
Rural and Remote Area Nursing Project  
07 4781 5351