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## Media Release

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### **AJRH ranked as leading rural health journal**

An audit conducted by the Australian Research Council has confirmed the high quality of the Australian Journal of Rural Health (AJRH). The AJRH's B ranking in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) system confirms it as the leading peer-reviewed scientific journal serving the Australian rural and remote health sector.

The recently-released independent study of more than 20,000 scientific publications ranks the AJRH alongside the US Journal of Rural Health, with which a joint issue of AJRH is planned later in 2010.

"This ERA ranking is a great outcome for the AJRH," said its Editor, Professor James Dunbar, who is also Director of the Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health in Warrnambool, Victoria.

"Our editorial team works hard to ensure that the AJRH publishes high-quality and relevant articles that advance policy and practice in Australia's rural and remote health sector. This ranking will encourage researchers to seek publication in the AJRH, and there is a speedy and largely automated system in place for handling and tracking their manuscripts," he said.

The evaluation was ordered in 2008 by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr. A media statement at the time said: "The ERA initiative will assess research quality within Australia's higher education institutions and will give government, industry, business and the wider community assurance of the excellence of research conducted. It will also provide a national stock-take, by research discipline areas, of research strength against international benchmarks."

The AJRH is owned and managed by the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) in partnership with its Journal Associates, The Rural Nursing and Midwifery Faculty of the Royal College of Nursing Australia, CRANaplus and Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health. Gordon Gregory, Executive Director of the NRHA, said: "For 18 years the AJRH has delivered quality research on rural and remote health issues and we value this confirmation of its standards."

Dr Amanda Davis, Publishing Director of Life Sciences and Professional at Wiley-Blackwell Asia Pacific, congratulated the AJRH on its achievement. "In the highly competitive journal market this ranking is a clear endorsement of its intellectual merit and its mission to provide a top class basis of evidence for rural and remote health practice," she said.

**Further information:** Peter Brown, Manager, AJRH: 02 6285 4660  
Gordon Gregory, NRHA: 02 6285 4660