



NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ALLIANCE INC

Media Release

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Drought at the 7th Conference

There will be a number of sessions on drought at the 7th National Rural Health Conference. The Conference runs in Hobart from 1-4 March.

On Sunday 2 March there will be an open forum on the social and environmental impacts of the current drought. Delegates have been asked to bring along their personal stories and images of the impact of the current drought on their own family or area. A paper from Lifeline Darling Downs and South West Queensland will examine one approach for dealing with the grief experienced by pastoralists.

The Keynote Address from Mike Montgomery on Sunday 2 March will describe some of the impact of the drought on rural regions. Mike is President of the Australian Local Government Association.

Symposium D on Monday is 'Agriculture and Rural Health' and will be led by Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry Australia. Symposium B the same day will deal with sustainable communities and health inequalities; the framework for sustainability is truly tested by adverse climatic conditions, and the current drought is considered by many to be a once-in-a-hundred-year event.

On Tuesday 4 March, officers from the Department of Family and Community Services will describe some of that agency's support for people affected by the drought.

Further information: all Conference details at

<http://www.nrha.net.au/nrhpublic/publicdocs/conferences/7thNRHC/introduction.htm>

or call the NRHA on (02) 6285 4660