Support the People, Places, Possibilities of rural and remote Australia

Program online for 13th National Rural Health Conference

The complete program for the 13th National Rural Health Conference (Darwin, 24-27 May) is now online. Go to http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/13nrhc/program to see all the speakers and sessions over the four days.

The opening session – jointly presented by Larrakia Nation and the NRHA - gets underway at 4pm on Sunday 24 May 2015. It will feature Federal and Northern Territory Ministers for Health; Shellie Morris; and Carol Reeve, population health expert at the Centre for Remote Health. Keynote sessions each day will stimulate thought and discussion of the people, places and possibilities for remote and rural areas.

Tuesday 26 May will include an international session on providing health services in resource-constrained settings in Australia and in countries to our near north. The final plenary session will delve into some of the big picture issues affecting the health of the people of rural and remote communities, including Medicare, inter-government arrangements and other system issues. Between these keynote sessions will be five concurrent sessions of ten streams. In total there will be over 200 presentations providing some of the latest news from all parts of Australia on a wide range of program and service areas.

Conference participants will have the opportunity to hear more of the evidence about the value of arts to the rural and remote health sector. There will also be an opportunity to learn swing dance, to play the didgeridoo, or join a bus tour to Nauiyu community. The Conference will also include a major Exhibition of service providers and professional organisations associated with remote and rural health.

Register for the 13th Conference and its pre-Conference events at: www.ruralhealth.org.au/13nrhc/register. For travel and accommodation information, airport transfers and ‘What to do in Darwin’ or anything else you need to know, go to the Conference website at www.ruralhealth.org.au/13nrhc.

Other Alliance News

Get involved in #loverural
#loverural is a social media campaign aimed at celebrating and sharing the things that make rural Australia a great place to live and work. Read more...

Medicare co-payment
The Alliance has been working closely with the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and its health members. Read more...

Mental Health Australia Advocacy Day
The team at the Alliance recently joined Mental Health Australia in the largest ever mental health delegation to federal Parliament. Read more...

Riding for Country Kids 2015
It’s only a few weeks before the Royal Far West 2015 Ride for Country Kids officially kicks off in Moree. Read more...

Parking for Rural Patients
It’s not just the cost of travelling to access health care which is an impediment to rural and remote patients; it’s also the logistical issues they face. Read more...

Government News

RFDS invests in aeromedical jet for Northern Territory
Central Australians will soon be cared for 24/7 by a permanently configured aeromedical jet following the purchase of a state-of-the-art Pilatus PC-24 aircraft by the RFDS. Read more...
$1.4 billion boost in primary care for Indigenous communities

Indigenous communities across Australia will benefit from a $1.4 billion investment in primary and preventable health care. Read more...

Boosting Indigenous health workers across the Territory

The NT Government has taken another positive step towards increasing the number of Indigenous Territorians in our health sector. The Back on Track project has now been extended to not only boost the level of Aboriginal Health Practitioners but also encourage Indigenous Territorians to get involved in our broader health workforce. Read more...

Friends of the Alliance

- Are you connecting with other likeminded country people?
- Are you having your voice heard on the health needs of your community?
- Do you have the opportunity to share positive solutions?

Friends of the Alliance is a network of people and organisations that come together to support the work of the National Rural Health Alliance and provide additional grassroots connections for its work. Make sure your Friends membership is up to date by contacting friends@ruralhealth.org.au or to join go to http://ruralhealth.org.au/friends.

Photo and poetry competitions now open

We are getting strong interest in the Friends of the Alliance, Photo and Poetry Competition. Make sure to get your entries in by Thursday 9 April 2015. For inspiration, here are the winner and runner-up photos from the 12th National Rural Health Conference. For more information go to http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/activities.

Research and Data

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders: a review of interventions for prevention and management in Indigenous communities

This resource sheet defines fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) and provides currently available estimates of their prevalence in the overall Australian population and in the Indigenous population. It reviews the Australian and international literature published since 1990 on the effectiveness of programs that aim to prevent FASD or to alleviate its effects. Read more...

Hearing loss and ear conditions common among Indigenous children—but some improvements seen

Hearing loss and ear conditions are very common among Indigenous children and young people, but outreach services have yielded some positive outcomes, according to a AIHW report. Read more...

What's On

- [National Close the Gap Day](#), 19 March
- [GO Rural Queensland](#) Information evening, 21 March 6.30pm – 10.00pm, Stamford Plaza Hotel, Brisbane
- [Australian & New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE) Conference](#), 29 March - 1 April, Newcastle Town Hall, Newcastle, NSW
- [World Health Day](#), 7 April
- [Australian Telehealth Conference 2015](#), 23 – 24 April, Swissotel Sydney
- [World Day for Safety and Health at Work](#), 28 April
- [Australian & New Zealand Search and Rescue Conference](#), 6 May, Jupiters Gold Coast QLD
- [Creating Futures Conference](#), 11 – 14 May, Cairns, Old
- [Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health Conference](#), 13 – 14 May, Perth
- [Rural and Remote Retrieval Conference 2015](#), 14 – 17 May, 2015, Emma Gorge Resort, El Questro Wilderness Park
- [Australian & New Zealand Eating Disorders and Obesity Conference](#), 18 – 19 May 2015., Gold Coast
- [The Australian & New Zealand Addiction Conference](#), 20 - 22 May, Surfers Paradise Old
- [Save the date ... 13th National Rural Health Conference](#), 24 - 27 May 2015, Darwin
- [National Reconciliation Week](#), 27 May–3 June
- [World No-Tobacco Day](#), 31 May
- [Communicable Disease Control Conference](#), 1 – 2 June, Pullman Brisbane
- [Health-e-Nation Leadership Summit 2015](#), 2 - 3 June, Sydney
- [World Blood Donor Day](#), 14 June
- [NACCHO Health Summit 2015](#), 16 – 18 June, Gold Coast
- [14th Annual International Conference on Health Economics, Management & Policy](#), 22 – 25 June, Athens, Greece
Lowitja Institute eBulletin

The Lowitja Institute distributes an eBulletin to update those interested in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research. The latest eBulletin was released on 2 March and features a collection of news articles, conferences, events, publications and important dates. Subscribe to receive the Lowitja Institute eBulletin by email, or read it online here.

Invitation to nominate for membership of the Lowitja Institute Program Committees

The Lowitja Institute is calling for nominations from suitably qualified and experienced individuals to contribute to the Institute’s Program Committees which will guide the Institute’s research programs until June 2019. Read more...

Australian Rural Doctor Newsletter


Inquest points to rural health weakness. More...
Rural doctors say dumped co-payment “a really good result”. More...
New RFDS jet to halve flying time (ABC Local Online - 02/03/2015) More...
Indigenous health outcomes would improve with constitutional recognition, medical groups say. More...

NACCHO News

Subscribe at http://nacchocommunique.com/

Development of a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Framework. More...
Aboriginal people to benefit from funding security. More...

Australian Indigenous HealthBulletin

Available at http://healthbulletin.org.au/

Diabetes care
Youth sexual offending
Antenatal smoking cessation support
Community participation in service reform
Hearing health outreach services
Perceptions of body weight, shape, obesity, and body image
A brokerage model for primary care
Impact of diabetes on eye care service need
Role of a rural mental health service
Supporting Aboriginal knowledge and...
Bush Support Services - 1800 805 391
The Bush Support Services Line (formerly Bush Crisis Line) is a 24 hour confidential telephone support service for workers, and their families, who work in health related services in remote and isolated situations. It is staffed by qualified psychologists with remote and cross cultural experience, is toll free and available from anywhere in Australia. [Visit the website.]

RDA News
- 3 Mar 2015 - Dropping of co-payment welcome…but Government urged to hit defrost button on rebate freeze. [More...]
- 2 Mar 2015 - Rural doctors to hold national breakfast briefing for federal politicians. [More...]

ACRRM Country Watch
View the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine's regular Country Watch newsletter at www.acrrm.org.au/general-medical-news or subscribe at acrrm@acrrm.org.au.

The Salvos
The Salvos are among those at the coalface in rural areas with suicide prevention - visit the Salvos website for more information.

Article in Rural and Remote Health
‘Exploration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives of Home Medicines Review’
Indigenous Australians suffer a high burden of chronic disease and hospitalisation. This study explored reasons for their low level of access to an important medication safety tool. [Read more...]

Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer
The NRHA eForum is published fortnightly. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health. Please send contributions to the moderator at grovesc@winshop.com.au (do not “reply” to this email - send contributions to grovesc@winshop.com.au). Contributions received by the Friday of publication will be included in the eForum.

The NRHA eForum 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 views of Jim Groves or any organisation he is associated with.

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