Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 18 August 2006

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 18 August 2006
In this issue:
* Chronic Renal Disease - 22nd August 2006
* 9th National Rural Health Conference
* The National SARRAH Conference
* Rural Health on the Web
* Rural Health on the ABC
* New Medicare system a "win-win for rural doctors and patients"
* AIHW Report
* Indemnity fix should help attract more NSW rural doctors
* New research shows Indigenous health improving
* Prime Minister Address in Honour of the Royal Flying Doctor Service
* New Articles in "Rural and Remote Health"
* Indigenous housing 'the worst'
* What's On
* Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

From: Rural Health Education Foundation
Subject: Chronic Renal Disease - 22nd August 2006
Repeat national satellite television broadcast
Presented by the Rural Health Education Foundation
Tuesday 22nd August 8:00pm EST
(also Friday 25th August 12:30pm EST)

This program examines the continuum of CKD, identifies risk factors and discusses what management plans should be triggered by these risk factors. Primary prevention models for the management of CKD, and treatment strategies across the continuum of disease will be included.

The program also examines what has been learnt from CKD interventions in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, and how this knowledge can be transferred and applied more broadly.

Chair: Dr Norman Swan, Presenter of the Health Report on ABC Radio National.
Dr Alan Cass, Director, Policy and Practice Division, the George Institute for International Health, Sydney.
Dr Paul Snelling, Nephrologist, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney & President ANZ College of Nephrology.
Ms Lesley Salem, Nurse Practitioner Nephrology, NSW.
Ms Carmel Crosby, Area Dietitian, North Coast Area Health Service.
Dr Emil Djakic, Rural General Practitioner, Ulverstone, Tasmania & Chair, North West Division.


+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

9th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Up to a thousand people will Stand Up for Rural and Remote Health at the 9th Conference in Albury next March.

Conference themes are:
1 Health across borders - State and professional (including developments along the Murray River). How teamwork is being developed across professional and disciplinary boundaries, and how quality is assured in inter-disciplinary work.
2 A focus on regional and local success stories in rural and remote health. What are their key characteristics and what contribution is made to them by IT and transport? Those relating to Indigenous health are of particular interest. And what have been the key issues where services have not been effective?
3 The politics and economics of early intervention: what are the political or professional constraints and where are the successes? What is the evidence for the benefits of early intervention, and are sufficient resources being directed to it?
4 How do we measure up in rural and remote areas on evidence, access and equity? What is the status of the evidence base in rural and remote health and what are the appropriate measures to be used? Where are the key research gaps? How do rural and remote health services compare across regions and with other nations?
5 What are the particular characteristics of chronic disease in rural and remote Australia: diabetes, obesity, oral and dental disease, mental illness and heart disease? What intervention and management systems work well, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? What are the roles of screening and self-management systems? Can we overcome skill shortages relating to chronic disease?
6 Preparation for and community response to natural disasters. What are (or would be) the rural and remote aspects of drought, flood and fire, avian flu, foot and mouth? How prepared are we in country areas? What are the characteristics of communities and health services which make some regions more resilient?

The Conference website is at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au

For further information, contact:
The 9th National Rural Health Conference
PO Box 280
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600
Phone: 02 6285 4660
Fax: 02 6285 4670
Email: conference@ruralhealth.org.au
THE NATIONAL SARRAH CONFERENCE
Building bridges ... Crossing borders
A Conference for Rural and Remote Allied Health Professionals
13 – 16 September 2006
Albury Convention Centre
ALBURY, NSW

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
PROGRAM AVAILABLE

The 2006 National SARRAH Conference
PO Box 74
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600
Phone: 02 6285 4660
Fax: 02 6285 4670
Email: conference@ruralhealth.org.au or register@ruralhealth.org.au
Website: http://www.sarrah.org.au

RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB
(From Google Alert, http://www.googlealert.com)
University of MN: Rural Health Research Center
The Upper Midwest Rural Health Research Center is a partnership that brings together ... The Rural Health Research Centers at the Universities of Minnesota, ...
http://www.hpm.umn.edu/rhrc/

RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC
(Extract from ABC Rural Newsletter - http://www.abc.net.au/rural/default.htm)
Divided views over diazinon
Farmers and rural workers frequently run the gauntlet, exposing themselves to health hazards in the line of work. Chemical exposure ranks as one of the most insidious and toxic threats for people living and working on the land.
http://www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2006/s1712479.htm

Outstations program
Bill Bunbury looks at the vexed question of ‘outstations’, those communities set up by Indigenous Australians in the 1970s who wanted to leave enforced residence in town and sought to go ‘back to country’. They sought to establish communities which could preserve Indigenous values and culture.
http://www.abc.net.au/rn/hindsight/stories/2006/1711882.htm

COUNTRY TEENAGERS SEEK ABORTIONS IN THE CITY
Catherine Clifford (National Rural Reporter)
Young women in rural towns are traveling hundreds of kilometres to city centres to have abortions they can’t get in their own community. This is one of the findings in a new study released today in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health. The report is authored by Carolyn Nickson from the University of Melbourne, and Professor Anthony Smith and Dr Julia Shelley from La Trobe University. The study focused on more than 1,300 patients who attended eight clinics in Melbourne and found nearly one fifth of teenagers had traveled more than 100km to access abortion services at these clinics. Researcher, Carolyn Nickson, says inadequate rural medical services and a need for privacy featured strongly in country patients’ decisions to travel so far from home. Dr Christine Read, Medical Director at Family Planning NSW, says she does a lot of work at the Rural Centre in Dubbo, NSW, which is nearly 500km from Sydney. She says it is her experience that young women will delay terminations, and possibly put their health at risk, because they are not clear about what to do or where to go.

Manuscript submissions to The Australian Journal of Rural Health can now be made online through Manuscript Central. Easy and fast submission process; track the progress of your article at any time; safe and secure site. Simply log on to http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh to submit your manuscript today and share the wealth of your knowledge. Full author instructions and guidelines can be found at the AJRH homepage - http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/ajrh

The August 2006 issue of the journal is available online now at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/toc/ajrh. Articles include:
* Treating acute mental illness in rural general hospitals: Necessity or choice?
* Community participation in organising rural general practice: Is it sustainable?
* Co-morbid drug and alcohol and mental health issues in a rural New South Wales Area Health Service
* Statistical methods for analysis of repeated measures on maternal morbidity
* An outbreak of acute post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis in remote Far North Queensland
* Hearing loss in recreational shooters in Central Queensland: A pilot study
* Letters to the Editor
* Grazings
Join friends of the Alliance in 2006. By joining friends you will receive the updated CD 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2005', a 2006 friends certificate, regular issues of PARTYline newsletter, and be eligible for a discounted registration at the 9th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Albury in March 2007. 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.

NEW MEDICARE SYSTEM A "WIN-WIN FOR RURAL DOCTORS AND PATIENTS"

A new system that will enable patients to claim Medicare rebates electronically before they leave their doctor's surgery will benefit rural doctors and their patients alike, according to the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA). The RDAA statement is at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/New%20Medicare%20system%20-%20win-win%20for%20rural%20doctors%20and%20patients%20-%20August%202006.htm

* medical students Kimberley style
* core services close to home
* oral and dental health
* housing and remote podiarty
* investing in remote communities
* choice and access in education
* fresh food and remote transport
* Rown Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellowship
* an Indigenous Outstations policy
* US recruitment and retention initiatives
* friends photographic festival
* 9th Conference update
* a photographic tribute to rural pets

AIHW REPORT

Children's dental health good, but needs brushing up in poorer areas

Children's dental health in Australia is better than many other countries, according to the AIHW report "Socioeconomic differences in children's dental health: The Child Dental Health Survey, Australia 2001" but children from disadvantaged socioeconomic areas have poorer dental health than other Australian children.

The more socioeconomically advantaged the metropolitan children were, the fewer decayed, missing and filled teeth they had. However, for rural and remote children there was no such gradient and only those in the best-off areas had an advantage in their dental health.


INDEMNITY FIX SHOULD HELP ATTRACT MORE NSW RURAL DOCTORS
(Extract from farmonline, http://www.farmonline.com.au - free registration is required)
9 August 2006

NSW Government action to fix a loophole in indemnity cover for private patients in rural NSW hospitals will save these hospitals millions of dollars in lost revenue. Indemnity insurance cover previously had been considered uneconomic by most rural doctors working in small NSW hospitals.

President of the Rural Doctors Association of NSW (RDA NSW), Dr Les Woollard, said today, "These hospitals will now be able to access much-needed income from private health funds for procedures undertaken for private patients.

"NSW Treasury Managed Fund will now provide indemnity cover for all patients in small NSW rural hospitals—not just public patients. This fixes an anomaly that had been denying income from private health funds to small rural hospitals staffed by multi-skilled procedural GPs and specialists.


LIFELINE'S JUST ASK - 1 300 13 11 14

Your Rural Mental Health Information Service

Lifeline's Just ask 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.justask.org.au and further information is available at national@lifeline.org.au and http://www.lifeline.org.au
NEW RESEARCH ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Research published in the Medical Journal of Australia appears to confirm that the health of Indigenous Australians is improving, according to Health Minister Tony Abbott.

The research examines death rates from chronic diseases among Indigenous people in the Northern Territory (which has the best data) between 1977 and 2001. Previous research showed that, while Indigenous death rates were falling for most conditions, mortality from chronic diseases such as diabetes and circulatory disease was rising. The new research shows death rates for the most common chronic diseases easing or falling since the end of the 1980s. The results show modest improvements in life expectancy, heart disease, stroke and diabetes. The full text of the statement by Mr Abbott is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abb114.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2006&mth=8

The AMA had a different interpretation on the research. According to AMA President, Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, said the research confirms that Australia must redouble its efforts to improve the health of Indigenous citizens because, while the increase in death rates slowed down towards the end of the 25-year period, non-Indigenous death rates have decreased much faster over the same period of time and so the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people has in fact increased, not decreased. The AMA statement is at http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-6SC63B

ALP health spokesperson Julia Gillard said that the important messages from the research are that if we invest in Indigenous health, we can make a difference, but also that the gap between the health of Indigenous Australians and non Indigenous Australians continues to grow and the death rates of Indigenous Australians continue to grow. Ms Gillard's comments are at http://www.alp.org.au/media/0806/dsيلة070.php

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

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESS IN HONOUR OF THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

4 August 2006

NEW ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Educating to improve population health outcomes in chronic disease: an innovative workforce initiative across remote, rural and Indigenous communities in northern Australia
How can we prepare remote health professionals to improve outcomes in chronic disease? This article describes a collaborative educational approach.

INDIGENOUS HOUSING "THE WORST"

A UNITED Nations housing expert says indigenous Australians face a humanitarian crisis and are living in some of the worst conditions in the world. UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Miloon Kothari, was invited by the Federal Government to assess Australia's housing needs and has spent the last two weeks touring the country, including Aboriginal communities. But he has delivered a damning preliminary assessment of the state of Aboriginal housing.

The full article is available at http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,20143228-2,00.html

From: Jane Howorth - ECC Information Desk
Subject: Registration for Rural Critical Care Conference

This year's Rural Critical Care Conference is taking place in Broken Hill, 25 and 26 August. The Conference is a forum focusing on the issues, clinical concepts and health initiatives that affect hospital and pre-hospital clinicians in rural NSW. This annual Conference targets Registered and Enrolled Nurses, Medical Officers, Allied Health Care Workers and Ambulance Officers across Australia. It has a specific rural and remote health care focus and provides a forum to share and discuss initiatives and innovations in emergency and critical care practice.

Further information is available on the conference website http://www.ruralcriticalcare.asn.au

NATIONAL RURAL YOUTH CONVENTION 2006
27 August-2 September

This Convention provides the chance for young adults (18-35) from all over Australia to come together for a week overflowing with
personal and professional development opportunities that you can't find anywhere else. As well as visiting some of WA's most innovative agricultural and other rural development sites, there will be workshops, guest speakers and the Young Farmer Competition National Finals at the Dowerin Field Days.

This Convention will be a chance to show everyone just how motivated and capable young people are when it comes to keeping rural Australia alive and kicking. It's also a chance for participants to discuss issues facing and opportunities for, youth in rural and regional Australia as well as to learn some new life skills in various workshops offered throughout the week. It's not all about farming either and we've got lots on to cater for a broad range of interests. Some of the sessions we've got planned include:

* Welcome to the Wheatbelt - Being Australia's biggest wheat producing state we could hardly get away with not showing you around the Dowerin Field Days, innovative research and trial sites, fascinating historical sites such as the Benedictine Monastery at New Norcia as well as our gorgeous Wheatbelt wildflowers. We'll spend all day on Thursday taking in some of the sights and delights of this vast but captivating region.
* Live Export Ship - Wellard Rural Exports have invited us to tour their live export ship (if there is one in port during the Convention week) in efforts to show us just how this industry operates and counter some of their negative press;
* Fire Management Skills - We have contacted our local Dept of Fire and Emergency Services who have offered to take participants through a practical fire safety workshop to better protect their homes and/or farms from fire - the workshop will include using a fire extinguishers to put out an alight couch (or something equally as impressive when on fire!) in a car park somewhere;
* Evening Events - The Convention does not stop the moment the sun goes down. Nights will also be utilised with a variety of sessions to promote self-development and networking. The Casino Night will focus on networking while also learning how to play a variety of card games commonly on offer at casinos - Ace Gambling provide services to corporate groups and games will be played with 'funny money'. We also have be working with Kompany M, a professional acting troupe, who will perform their humorous play 'The Gun' in a local shearing shed.

Other inclusions within our program are:
* Learning how to cook a special 'signature dish' to impress your next date;
* Showcase some of the innovative practices happening in WA's Wheatbelt including what's happening about bio-diesel research and visiting CSBP's cutting edge soil analysis laboratories;
* Take in some of the tasty delights of Heartlands growers from olive oil to yabbies to wine.

Sarah Anderson
Executive Officer
Western Australian Federation of Rural Youth
PO Box 473, Shackleton WA 6386
p. 08 9645 5004 or 0429 703 475 (limited mobile coverage so leave msg on office phone)
http://www.ruralyouthwa.org.au

SEGRA 2006 - SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA
Tenth National Conference
28-30 August 2006
Launceston, Tasmania
Registration Hotline: (07) 3210-0021
info@segra.com.au

From: Alliedschol Scholarships
Subject: 2006 Semester 2 NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants

Applications are now open for the 2006 Semester 2 NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants.

NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants have been created to assist both rural and urban allied health students with the travel and accommodation costs of rural clinical placements and provide students with opportunities to experience rural practice and lifestyle in NSW. Placement Grants of up to $650 (or $1,000 in the case of placements at Broken Hill) are offered during each semester.

Obtain an application form by:
* Sending an email to alliedschol@doh.health.nsw.gov.au
* Calling 02 9391 9501

APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2006

7th WONCA RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE
Transforming Rural Practice Through Education
8-15 September 2006
Seattle, WA, USA
http://www.ruralwonca2006.com

Wonca is the World Organisation of Family Doctors, which has a specific Working Party on Rural Practice. This Working Party holds an annual conference on rural health and has produced a number of policy documents regarding rural health (for more information about Wonca, go to http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com).

WONCA Rural Conference
From: Shelagh Lowe  
Subject: Postgraduate scholarships (ARRHPS) open for application

The Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme is now open for application. Qualified, practicing rural and remote allied health professionals are able to apply for scholarship funding to support them to undertake a continuing professional education activity such as:

* attendance at a conference (remember the National Rural Health Conference is in March 2007; or discipline specific conferences occurring in 2007);
* short courses;
* individual clinical placements (do you want to upgrade your skills in a particular area by visiting a metropolitan specialist clinic in that area and undertaking a placement); and
* formal postgraduate qualifications.

The application package including application form and scholarship guidelines can be downloaded from the SARRAH website - http://www.sarrah.org.au/Scholarship/PostGraduate.asp

You are encouraged to apply online as this greatly assists the SARRAH staff to process the application form information. This facility will be available within the next couple of days. Closing date for applications is the 15th September 2006

THE CONGRESS of ABORIGINAL and TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NURSES (CATSIN)  
8th NATIONAL CONFERENCE and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Conference Theme: BACK TO THE FUTURE - The future is Ours!  
WHERE: Tasmania  
WHEN: 27th-29th September 2006  
VENUE: The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel.  
REGISTRATION COST: $400.00

Roslyn Lockhart  
CATSIN Project Officer  
PO Box 124  
Jerilderie  
Ph/Fax: 03 58860505  
Email: lockharr@bigpond.net.au

Conference Organisers:  
WYETH Pharmaceuticals  
Susan Day, Conference Manager  
Locked Bag 5002 Baulkham Hills BC NW 2153  
Ph: (02) 8850 8317 Fax: (02) 9023 0030 Email: days@wyeth.com

For Registration Forms and accommodation information, please contact the conference organisers. You can also find registration forms on the website at http://www.indiginet.com.au/catsin

From: Simon Lansdown  
Subject: Using Evidence Symposium, October 19-20 2006, Melbourne

The Using Evidence: Using Guidelines Symposium will provide health professionals and organisations with practical solutions for getting clinical practice guidelines into day-to-day practice, including:

* Knowing which guideline recommendations to focus on
* Understanding how to identify and address barriers to guideline implementation
* Selecting evidence-based interventions to implement guidelines
* Deciding the right indicators to measure uptake of guidelines and patient outcomes
* Planning the resources and support needed for guideline implementation.

Symposium Themes

FOCUS: How do we decide which guideline recommendations to tackle first?  
BARRIERS: Why does our practice depart from best practice? Could we change?  
IMPLEMENTATION: How do we select evidence-based interventions to implement guideline recommendations?  
MEASUREMENT: How do we decide what to measure and what information to feed back, in order to support guideline implementation?

The symposium will be held at Melbourne's Langham Hotel with key note speakers Professor Susan Michie and Dr Brian Mittman and have workshops on a range of issues including how to identify and address barriers to guideline implementation.

For more information or to register your interest go to http://www.usingevidence.com.au
Anti-Poverty Week begins this year on Sunday 15 October and finishes on Saturday 21 October. As usual, it includes International Anti-Poverty Day which has been designated by the UN as October 17. The Week focuses on poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries such as Australia. This year, Health and Poverty is a major theme.

The main aims of the Week are to:
* strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship;
* encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems.

We hope that Health Workers throughout Australia will organise something during the Week, whether it is a big event or a more modest activity. We have suggested Thursday 19 October as a special day for Health and Poverty. But you are very welcome to hold activities on whichever days of the Week suit you. Here are a few ideas:
* Launch a health campaign to address poverty-related health issues
* Arrange for a guest speaker to visit your organisation
* Conduct a survey on health and poverty-related issues
* Hold a fundraiser night at your organisation, with proceeds going to a local health or welfare organisation
* Publish a special Anti-Poverty Week edition of a health newsletter or magazine

How can Anti-Poverty Week support an event?
* A listing on the Activities page of our website
* Anti-Poverty Week posters to help promote the activity
* An electronic information kit on Australian and international poverty.
* Information and advice on how to find more about poverty and possible speakers for events
* Contact details of people planning activities in your area

FOR MORE INFORMATION see http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au or contact us at 1-300-797-290 or coordinator@antipovertyweek.org.au
be held 22 – 24 November 2006 at the Wesley Centre the Conference will focus on the theme ‘Diversity in Ageing.’

The conference is the major annual activity of the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG), which brings together professionals interested in promoting education and research into all aspects of ageing. The Association encourages cross disciplinary exchange of ideas amongst professionals including clinicians, therapists, social scientists, economists and demographers. The anticipated 350 delegates are expected to include medical practitioners, researchers, nurses, social workers, psychologists, social scientists, music therapists, economists, demographers, geographers and consumers interested in the field of ageing research, education, service provision and policy.

Further information on the Conference is available on http://www.aag.asn.au/conference2006.htm or by contacting the Conference Managers on 1300 368 783 or email aag@eastcoastconferences.com.au

Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress 2006
Roroua Convention Centre, New Zealand, 6-10 December 2006

First Call for Abstracts
The theme of the conference is 'Rapu Oranga: In Pursuit of Excellence in Health'.
We are currently calling for abstracts to be submitted and are interested in the following topics that have relevance to Indigenous health:
• Traditional Healing
• Inequalities
• Methodological Development
• Research
• Ensuring our own health and well being
• Public health programmes and services
• Clinical services and programmes
• Indigenous providers
• Indigenous health Medical Curriculum
• Recruiting and retaining Indigenous peoples into medicine.

Abstracts addressing the overall theme ('Rapu Oranga: Striving for Excellence') in other indigenous health topics are also welcomed. We are particularly keen to hear from:
• Indigenous Medical Students
• Indigenous Physicians
• Welcome others to submit

If you are interested in presenting at Congress, submit abstracts online, as early as possible, but no later than Sunday 20 August 2006 at http://www.conference.co.nz/pridoc2006

From: Mcalpin, Susan
Subject: International Rural Network World Rural Forum

The International Rural Network World Rural Forum, India, Late Jan-Early Feb 2008: Innovation for Sustainable Local Development.

The main focus of the Forum will be on innovation in education, health, resource management, governance, and sustainable development to improve the quality of life of rural people and reduce rural poverty and social exclusion.

The forum will be based in the beautiful rural town of Udaipur, Rajasthan, which is also the home of IRN Board Member Lakshmi Murthy.

The Forum will involve five days, with at least one day (or equivalent) in local field visits to see the relevant work of NGOs etc. There are likely to be optional additional visits after the Forum either to the famous Institute of Rural Management in Anand, Gujarat and/or to the equally famous Birla Institute of Technology in Pilani, Rajasthan.

The date of the conference will be around the end of January or beginning of February 2008. If you are interested, please check out our website at http://www.International-Rural-Network.org and email Nicola.swan@btinternet.com to register your interest in keeping informed as soon as possible.

IRN Aims
Poverty and disadvantage is a common feature of rural areas and people across the world. This is explicitly recognised in the UN Millennium Development Goals. By providing a global forum for academics, practitioners, NGOs and policy makers concerned with sustainable rural development, education and health, the IRN aims to stimulate exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas, and create regional and global support networks. In this way it helps to develop a storehouse of knowledge and expertise on rural concerns, and to raise the profile and policy impacts of rural people, their NGOs and other organisations aiming for local empowerment, engagement, and supporting activities including policies.

CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health concerns. Please send contributions to the moderator at grovesc@winshop.com.au (do not “reply” to this email - send contributions to grovesc@winshop.com.au).

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.

This issue is going to 2,539 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.