Regionalising junior doctor training
Thank you for all the positive and constructive feedback about our plan for increasing the number of "non-traditional" internships in rural areas - see
http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/ftp/twitter/NRHA-plan-for-regionalising-jnr-doctor-training-final-6-June.pdf. We are refining the plan and considering how to best to advance this work.

Health promotion
During July, the Alliance welcomed the Government's support for smoking cessation - http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr-11-07-05.pdf, as well as the appointment of the Advisory Council for the National Health Prevention Agency - see http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr%20rural%20focus%20will%20keep%20all%20australians%20healthier%20final.pdf. The Alliance continues to highlight the importance of a rural preventive health focus and the need for targeted programs that are fit for purpose in country areas.

Health Workforce Australia
Alliance Chairperson Jenny May will represent the Alliance at the first meeting of the Expert Reference Group providing advice to Health Workforce Australia on the development of a Rural, Regional and Remote Health Workforce Strategy. Consultations on the strategy are expected to commence in August.
**Medicare Locals - updates**

If you have suggestions about how the Alliance can support those Medicare Locals which cover rural/remote areas, please let us know: [nrha@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:nrha@ruralhealth.org.au)


**Telehealth**


**Personally controlled electronic health records (PCEHR)**

The Alliance was represented at a stakeholder briefing on the legislation issues paper for the establishment of personally controlled electronic health records (PCEHR) given by the Department of Health and Ageing. Information about the consultation is available at [http://yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/pcehr-legals](http://yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/pcehr-legals). Submissions are due by 3 August with further opportunities to provide input as the legislation is drafted and during PCEHR development. Members of the Alliance will be well represented at NEHTA’s initial rural and remote consultation about the PCEHR in August.

**AJRH**

Look out for the August issue due on line early August. Contents include:

- Needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients residing in Australian residential aged-care facilities
- Using cohort studies to investigate rural and remote mental health
- Mortality patterns of Australian male farmers and farm managers
- Predictors of support service use by rural and regional men with cancer
- Private practice in rural areas: An untapped opportunity for dietitians
- Distribution of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) providers in rural
- New South Wales, Australia: A step towards explaining high CAM use in rural health?
- Skin excisions: Not so simple for the regionally based general surgical trainee
- Implementing alcohol and other drug interventions effectively: How does location matter?
- Attitudes towards dysmenorrhoea, impact and treatment seeking among adolescent girls: A rural school-based survey
AJRH now has an impact factor of 1.070 See: http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/ajrh

Rural Health Continuing Education Scheme (RHCE2)
Online applications for the second round of RHCE2 grant funding must be submitted by COB 8 August 2011. (Go to ?Apply? at http://rhce.ruralhealth.org.au/) It is anticipated that the outcomes of the assessment and selection process will be complete by the end of September 2011. Further information: phone 1800 987 440 or email rhce@ruralhealth.org.au

RAMUS offers rural leadership training opportunity for scholar Alumni
A new initiative of the RAMUS Alumnus Program will support young rural doctors who are former RAMUS scholars to develop as leaders of the future in rural and remote Australia. The Program will sponsor one place in the TRAIL cross-sectoral leadership training program in 2011 and one place in 2012. TRAIL (Training Rural Australians In Leadership) is an intensive 8-day residential training program for emerging rural leaders presented by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. See: http://ramus.ruralhealth.org.au/alumnus

friends of the Alliance
Nominations have closed for the friends of the Alliance Advisory Committee and elections were held in NSW, Tasmania and South Australia. The new committee will be announced on Tuesday 2 August 2011 and will elect the new Chairperson at its first teleconference.

Updated rural health papers DVD
Thank you to the Cunningham Centre and RIRDC for sponsoring the update of the Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2011 DVD which includes proceedings of all eleven National Rural Health Conferences and a broad range of health documents - all searchable by key words. All financial members of friends of the Alliance will soon receive a copy. If you are not sure if your membership is up-to-date contact Kellie at friends@ruralhealth.org.au A membership form can be downloaded from the friends page of the Alliance website - see http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4

Brain injury rehabilitation in rural and remote Australia
The Alliance is beginning a project that will look at improving access for people in rural and remote communities to rehabilitation services following brain injury (eg from trauma such as a motor vehicle accident, fall or assault; or from sudden-onset non-traumatic causes such as aneurism, haemorrhage or stroke).

12th National Rural Health Conference: Save the Date
The 12th National Rural Health Conference will be held in Adelaide, 7-10 April 2013. Register your interest now at http://nrha.org.au/12nrhc/.

Keynote presentations from the 11th National Rural Health Conference held in Perth in March 2011 can be viewed on the 11th Conference Website at http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/keynote-video

A STRONG RURAL FOCUS WILL KEEP ALL AUSTRALIANS HEALTHIER

The National Rural Health Alliance welcomes the establishment of an Advisory Council to
support the work of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency but warns that to have true national success, health promotion campaigns will need to be designed to be effective in rural and remote Australia and not just in cities. The full text of the Alliance statement is at http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr%20rural%20focus%20will%20keep%20all%20australians%20healthier%20final.pdf and is reproduced below.

HESTA PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AWARDS - NOMINATE NOW!
(From: Hart, Lynn - lhart@hesta.com.au)

Nominate the best and brightest in your workplace! We're searching for the people, projects, and initiatives from Australia's primary health care workforce deserving of recognition and reward for outstanding performance. Help us to find and reward them. Make a nomination by 14 August 2011 at http://www.phcawards.com

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE
5th Annual Rural Health Conference
Evidence and emotion: exploring aspects of the science and art of rural medical practice
21-23 September 2011
Albany Entertainment Centre, Albany, Western Australia

Conference partners The Rural Clinical School of Western Australia and Rural Health West invite you to be part of the Building the Future of Rural Health conference. This year, the conference will be held in Albany with the support of the Great Southern GP Network. Titled Evidence and emotion: exploring aspects of the science and art of rural medical practice, this premier annual event is a must for anyone with an interest in rural health. It will provide essential opportunities for general practitioners, researchers, health professionals and medical students to share ideas, form collaborations and network with speakers and other delegates.


11th AUSTRALIAN PALLIATIVE CARE CONFERENCE - DIVERSITY 2011

29 August - 2 September: What's in your academic calendar?

The 11th Australian Palliative Care Conference - Diversity 2011 will be held in Cairns QLD from 30 August - 2 September 2011. The conference will provide opportunities to share knowledge, leadership, inspiration and information about palliative care. The overall theme of Diversity 2011 is 'Strengthening quality care at the end of life'. The conference aims to reflect the diversity that makes up the palliative care sector, with a primary focus on diversity in people, health and models of care. Diversity 2011 will provide opportunities for robust discussion, hands on learning, interesting presentations and valuable networking.
The detailed program is available on the conference website. View the program to see the valuable insights that will be available at the conference. Further information on the conference is available at http://www.austpalliativecareconference.org.au.

**RHCE2 - ROUND TWO - NOW OPEN**

The 2011 application round for the Rural Health Continuing Education Program (Stream 2) is now open and will close on 8 August 2011.

The 2011 RHCE2 program, funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Health and Ageing, supports qualified health professionals working in rural and remote Australia to undertake continuing professional development and inter-professional learning activities


RHCE2 is being administered for the Department by the National Rural Health Alliance for three years (April 2010-June 2013). Total funds available for RHCE2 project grants are approximately $630,000 per annum, with the final round in 2012-13. Information on the allocation of grants in Round One (2010) is at http://rhce.ruralhealth.org.au/grant-allocation.

RHCE2 grants are available for organisations and groups of individuals to access, develop or provide continuing professional development (CPD), continuing professional education (CPE), multi-disciplinary training or inter-professional learning (IPL) and orientation activities that meet the needs of:

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers
* allied health professionals
* general practitioners, or
* nurses and midwives practising in rural and remote areas of Australia.

The program will support cost-effective training that can encourage increased collaboration between professions and support the attraction and retention of health professionals in rural and remote areas. For details see the Guidelines page of the RHCE2 website. Please read the guidelines carefully before applying online for a grant. Multiple applications will be accepted but given the strongly competitive nature of the RHCE2 grants, no single entity will be given more than one grant.

In 2011, priority will be given to funding gaps in existing arrangements for CPD and supporting initiatives that are demonstrated by evidence based research as needing urgent intervention. Support can only be provided for programs that are:

* accredited or endorsed by the relevant professional body or bodies
* directly relevant to the current employment of intended program participants in a rural or remote area, and
* delivered in Australia.
The Alliance would like you to circulate the above information in your organisation's newsletters, email broadcasts or other publications as soon as possible to allow interested organisations and groups as much time as possible to prepare and submit their applications.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the information above please the RHCE2 Program Manager, Wendy Downs, on (02) 6162 3374 or 1800 987 440 or email rhce@ruralhealth.org.au

PUGGY HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme is now open for applications. The scholarship provides financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are intending to undertake study or are undertaking study in an entry level qualification at an Australian university or TAFE (certificate IV and above) level in the areas of: Aboriginal health worker, allied health (excluding pharmacy), dentistry/oral health, enrolled nursing, medicine, midwifery, registered nursing. Applications are available at http://www.rcna.org.au/scholarships/puggy_hunter If you require further information or assistance, contact the scholarships team at RCNA, phone 1800 688 628 or email scholarships@rcna.org.au. Closing date is COB 16 September 2011.

11TH NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE


Partyline - Newsletter of the National Rural Health Alliance

Partyline is an opportunity for communication within the rural health sector of news and information of interest. Subscription is free. Contributions of articles, news stories, policy pieces, photos and poetry are invited. partyline@ruralhealth.org.au Back copies at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au
WE ARE ON TWITTER!
'Follow us on Twitter' button now on our home webpage: http://www.ruralhealth.org.au

Good support for last week’s media release: A strong rural focus will keep all Australians healthier. http://t.co/70iLNvx
Telecom. review asks how people with disabilities&older people hear about computer&mobile options that would help them http://t.co/lBYjqji
Nursing and Allied Health Rural Locum Scheme covers leave for rural workers for continuing professional development http://t.co/MGN5BV5
Australia's blood stocks low: donors of universal O-Negative type especially welcome - http://t.co/4JAbR4u

THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE E-BULLETIN

25 July 2011
* Researching Indigenous Health: A Practical Guide for Researchers
* Expression of Interest for Chief Investigator
* Dr Kerry Arabena: First Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander to Receive Crawford Prize for Academic Excellence
* Congratulations to Terri Jenken, NAIDOC Person of the Year
* Research at The Lowitja Institute
* Speeches by The Lowitja Institute leadership
* Publications by the Lowitja Institute
* Conferences, Calls for Abstracts & Funding
* Events
* Jobs
* Media
* Publications
* Resources and Websites
* Scholarships, Awards, Funding, Grants and Tenders
* Seminars, Courses and Symposia

JOIN friends

We would like to encourage you to join friends of the Alliance. The cost of membership is unchanged: $44 (including GST) for an individual, $165 for an organisation of less than 50 people, and $330 for a large organisation. On joining you will receive a friends membership pack including a certificate, the Rural and Remote Health Papers CD, lapel pin, fact sheets and the latest annual report. The NRHA values the input of friends and finds its advice and contributions invaluable to the work of the Alliance. A membership form can also be found on the friends page of the Alliance website at
To receive the updated DVD *Rural and Remote Health Papers (1991-2011)* join *friends of the Alliance*

All 2011 members of *friends* of the Alliance will soon receive a copy of the updated Rural and Remote Health Papers DVD, a valuable resource on rural, regional and remote health. The 2011 update includes proceedings of the 11th National Rural Health Conference and has 4,000 documents containing 30,000 pages of information. It is searchable by key words. The DVD includes:

* proceedings of 11 National Rural Health Conferences
* proceedings of the Infront Outback Rural Health Scientific Conferences
* Australian Journal of Rural Health 1992-2010
* Partyline newsletters and other Alliance policy documents and submissions.

**RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC**

Telehealth (Australia Talks)

Rural doctors slam federal incentive scheme (Bush Telegraph)

**AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF RURAL HEALTH**

The Australian Journal of Rural Health is a multidisciplinary journal, which aims to facilitate the formation of interdisciplinary networks to build and advance rural practice for all health professionals. Get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health! The Journal welcomes short reports and letters to the editor as well as review articles, original research articles and clinical perspectives. For useful tips on submitting your manuscript, read the FREE editorial, *How to get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health*.

Manuscripts can be submitted online at [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh) Manuscript Central or posted to AJRH. The Australian Journal of Rural Health is published on behalf of the National Rural Health Alliance by Blackwell Publishing Asia Pty Ltd 155 Cremorne Street Richmond Vic 3121

Tel +61 (0)3 9274 3100 Fax +61 (0)3 9274 3101 E-mail melbourne@johnwiley.com.au

June 2011 issue now available. Contents include:

Editorial - *Innovation in rural health: Sound the trumpet!*

Review Article - *Reorienting primary health care for addressing chronic conditions in remote Australia and the South Pacific: Review of evidence and lessons from an innovative quality improvement process*

Original Articles

Sustainable primary health care services in rural and remote areas: Innovation and evidence

Implementation of diabetes prevention programs in rural areas: Montana and south-eastern
Australia compared
The psychosocial impacts of fly-in fly-out and drive-in drive-out mining on mining employees: A qualitative study
Exposure therapy for problem gambling in rural communities: A program model and early outcomes
The John Flynn Placement Program: Evidence for repeated rural exposure for medical students
Comparison of the results of two rural allied health workforce surveys in the Hunter New England region of New South Wales: 2005 versus 2008
Short Report - Impact of clinical audit in the care of coronary heart disease: The experience of a rural general practice
Obituary - Dr Margaret Sheldon OAM, FRANZCR, 18 April 1927 to 5 November 2010

Further information at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/ajr

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

38 New Community Projects to Tackle Indigenous Health Challenge
The Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, said the Australian Government is funding 38 community-driven projects around the nation to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to quit smoking, eat healthy, exercise more and better manage their own often chronic health issues. The local Indigenous community campaigns have been funded as part of the Australian Government's new Live Longer! health campaign.

Improving Smiles in the APY Lands
A new mobile dental van and equipment will help provide better dental health care to Aboriginal people in the far north west of South Australia.

New National "Health Heroes" Campaign to Attract More Indigenous People into the Workforce
The Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, has launched a new national advertising campaign aimed at attracting more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to work in Indigenous Health.

LIFELINE INFORMATION SERVICE

The Lifeline Information Service provides access to a variety of self-help tool kits with information about issues such as mental illness, depression, suicide prevention, and more. These resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health and are available online at http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice
A limited number of printed tool kits are available on request by emailing infoservice@lifeline.org.au. For more information please visit http://www.lifeline.org.au
If you are in need of 24 hour crisis support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14

The Salvos are among those at the coalface in rural areas with suicide prevention - http://suicideprevention.salvos.org.au/

CAREERS IN ABORIGINAL HEALTH TO HELP CLOSE THE GAP

"Now is a great time for Aboriginal school students and others to think about a career in Aboriginal health" says Mr Justin Mohamed, Chair of NACCHO. "The Health Heroes campaign launched by Minister Warren Snowdon this week is supported by an extensive and easy to use website* about careers in Aboriginal health", Mr Mohamed said. The full text of the NACCHO statement is at http://www.naccho.org.au/Files/Documents/Careers_in_Aboriginal_healthMR28-7-11.pdf

Australian Organ Donor Register is Australia's only national organ and tissue donor register and serves as a lifeline to the people on the organ transplant waiting lists. Register online at http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/aodr/register.jsp to be an Australian Organ Donor now!

ABS STATISTICS

Arthritis and Osteoporosis in Australia: A Snapshot, 2007-08
Cat 4843.0.55.001
Introduction
Prevalence - Prevalence, Age and sex, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
In 2007-08, an estimated 15% of all Australians (3.1 million people) had arthritis. Osteoporosis affected an estimated 3.4% (692,000) of all people in Australia.
In 2004-05, the prevalence of arthritis amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was 9.1% (8.0% of males and 10.2% of females). After adjusting for age differences between the two populations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were 1.2 times as likely as non-Indigenous people to have arthritis in 2004-05.
In 2004-05, 0.9% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had osteoporosis, compared with 3.0% of non-Indigenous Australians. However, after adjusting for age, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are 0.7 times as likely as non-Indigenous people to have osteoporosis. The rate of osteoporosis among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples increased in 2004-05, up from 0.3% in 2001.
Health characteristics - Health status, Disability, Employment, Body Mass Index, Physical activity, Actions taken for arthritis and osteoporosis
References
Cat 4156.0
Introduction
Main features
Participation in sport and physical recreation - Adult participation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults' participation in sport and physical activities, Participation in selected sports and physical recreation activities, Reasons for participating, Children's participation, Participation by people with a disability, Exercise levels
Time spent on sport and recreation
Spectator attendance at sporting events
Sport and social capital
Expenditure by households
Employment
Volunteers in sport
Spectator attendance at sporting events
Expenditure by households
Employment
Volunteers in sport

Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2008-09
6524.0.55.002
This article presents selected data on estimates of personal income for the years 2003-04 to 2008-09, at a range of geographic levels. It is useful for analysing the regional differences in the level and composition of income in any given year and for analysing the growth rate of income between years but not including any year affected by series breaks.

BUSH SUPPORT SERVICES (formerly Bush Crisis Line) - 1800 805 391
The Bush Support Services 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. For more information:

RDAA NEWS
21 Jul 2011
Complex carbon plan finalised but internal review of "crazy" classification system still M.I.A.
GET REGIONAL

Get Regional is the new information and referral service for people living and working throughout country Australia. Engaging and interacting rural, regional and remote communities, via dynamic interactive technologies, to ensure a more sustainable future for the bush. The most up-to-date and independent information service with a wide range of broadcast distribution services.

http://getregional.com.au

ROWAN NICKS RUSSELL DRYSDALE FELLOWSHIP IN INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND WELFARE

Do you want to make a difference in Australian Indigenous Health?
This fellowship awards up to $60,000 (negotiable depending on qualifications and/or experience) for the 12 month period of 2012.
The fellowship is designed to support individuals wanting to make a contribution in the area of Australian Indigenous Health and Welfare. The Fellowship particularly aims to support workers and the development of future leaders in Australian Indigenous Health and Welfare. Australian indigenous people are strongly encouraged to apply.
Fellowships could take the form of
* The A salary for a 12 month period at a level commensurate with the Fellow's experience and qualifications OR
* A stipend and payment of course fees to undertake approved education or research.
Closing date: 26 August 2011
For further information about the Fellowship and for application forms, please visit
Or contact Louise Lawler, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Wollongong, 0418 251 864, llawler@uow.edu.au

12th International Mental Health Conference Personality Disorders: Out of the Darkness
Gold Coast, 24-26 August
Presented by the Australian & New Zealand Mental Health Association. This year, the conference will explore different types of Personality Disorders and their affects through the life cycle from childhood to older age

ACRS 2011
(From: Linda Cooke linda.cooke@acrs.org.au)
A safe system - making it happen!
Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre  
1st and 2nd September 2011

The 2011 Australasian College of Road Safety national conference will be held in Melbourne on the 1st and 2nd September 2011. The one and a half day program will include at least one international keynote speaker, presentations on work in progress and also a conference declaration. A social dinner will be held on the first night of the conference. The conference declaration will provide impetus for ACRS to work with partners and members in Australia in the implementation of the Australian National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 in the Decade of Action on Road Safety. Join with us in this exciting program in making it all happen!

Contact:  
Ph: +61 2 6290 2509  
Email: eo@acrs.org.au  
Mail: PO Box 198, MAWSON ACT 2607

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**GPET Convention 2011**  
The GPET convention will be held on 7 and 8 September in Canberra. You'll find more information on the GPET Convention website at  

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**15th Annual NT Chronic Diseases Conference**  
Darwin, 8-9 September  
Presented by Chronic Diseases Network (CDN). The Conference theme this year is 'Out of the Shadows, Into the Spotlight - Chronic Diseases, Mental Health' and will focus on the complex relationship between chronic diseases and mental illness. The conference welcomes anyone with an interest in the prevention and management of chronic diseases especially in the NT. The CDN conferences traditionally include a focus on the challenges for Indigenous health as well as remote health service delivery, challenges and innovations.  
http://www.cdnconference.com.au  
cdnconference@agentur.com.au

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**AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference 'Young and Old: Connecting Generations'**  
Canberra, 19-22 September  
The conference will consider key issues for the younger and older generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, whether living in urban, regional or remote areas of Australia. Funding to attend conference is available.  
http://www.aiatsis.gov.au
PHAA 41st Annual Conference
Brisbane
26-28 September
http://www.phaa.net.au/41stPHAAAnnualConference.php

Australasian HIV/AIDS Conference
26-28 September 2011
National Convention Centre, Canberra ACT Australia
http://www.hivaidsconference.com.au

8th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference
Darwin, 27-30 September

2011 Australasian Sexual Health Conference
28-30 September 2011
National Convention Centre, Canberra ACT Australia
http://www.sexualhealthconference.com.au

4th Indigenous Mental Health Conference 'Our Mob, Our Minds, Our Spirit' Conference
Fremantle WA, 12-14 October
The theme for this year will explore the many roles Aboriginal workers undertake in their employment, their community and their family - 'What hat are you wearing today?'. All the necessary links and more information available from the HealthInfoNet at http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/key-resources/conferences?cid=519

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association Symposium 'Our Doctors Making a Difference'
Broome, Western Australia, 22 October
For information, please contact Susan Granger at AIDA on T: 02 62735013, E: susan@aida.org.au
Oceania Tobacco Control Conference 2011 'Burying the Habit: Moving to a Tobacco Free Future
Brisbane, 18-20 October
http://www.oceaniatc2011.org/
Indigenous Preconference Workshop at the Oceania Tobacco Control Conference will be held by the Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control (CEITC) Monday 17 October. Attendance is open to all people working in Indigenous Tobacco Control. Please register your interest at ceitc-info@unimelb.edu.au

Rural Medicine Australia 2011
28 to 30 October, Alice Springs
The annual national conference of ACRRM and RDAA, Rural Medicine Australia, will be in Alice Springs this year. The conference website, with registration and program details is at http://www.acrrm.com.au/. Please make a note in your diary that the pre-conference procedural workshops will be on Thursday 27 October, and the conference proper will run Friday to Sunday, 28 to 30 October 2011.

Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium, Impacts & Outcomes
Ballarat, Victoria, 14-16 November 2011
The Symposium will examine the impacts and outcomes of social, financial and environmental issues on mental health patients and their service providers in rural and remote communities in Australia. Symposium streams will also delve into Treatments, Policy and Funding, Research, Community Resilience, Planning & Prevention and Building Capacity. Contact ruralhealth@anzmh.asn.au

The LSAC and LSIC Research Conference: Findings from The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) and The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) Growing Up in Australia and Footprints in Time
Melbourne, 15-16 November 2011
Call for abstracts closes on 12 August.

LEADERS IN INDIGENOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION (LIME) CONNECTION IV
Christchurch, Aotearoa/ New Zealand from 29 November - 1 December 2011
This year's Connection will focus on Medical Education for Indigenous Health: Building the Evidence Base. Specifically, the Connection will address leading approaches to integrating Indigenous health into medical education and will contribute to the growing body of evidence
illustrating the key role medical education plays in Indigenous health outcomes. The Connection will provide an opportunity to discuss and challenge some current practices and explore emerging tools and techniques to drive continuous improvement in outcomes for Indigenous health and aims to encourage information sharing, professional development, capacity-building and networking amongst peers.

Keynote speakers include experts in medical education and Indigenous health from Australia, New Zealand and further afield. The target audience includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous medical educators, Indigenous health specialists, general practitioners, policy makers, students and community members. The LIME Connection seeks to support collaboration between medical schools and to build linkages with those from other health disciplines. The conference also hosts the LIMElight Awards, which acknowledge and celebrate the many current successes in Indigenous medical education.

LIME Connection IV is being hosted by The University of Otago, Christchurch, and is held under the auspices of Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand, the Australian Indigenous Doctors’ Association (AIDA) and Te Ohu Rata O Aotearoa (Te ORA) Maori Medical Practitioners Association of Aotearoa.

For further information or questions, please contact us via lime-network@unimelb.edu.au, or +61 3 8344 0828.

7th Health Services & Policy Research Conference 2011
Adelaide, 5-7 December

2nd National Indigenous Drug & Alcohol Conference (NIDAC 2012)
Fremantle, Western Australia, 6-8 June
With the theme ‘Beyond 2012: Leading the Way to Action’, the Conference promises to build on the success of the inaugural National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference held in June 2010. It aims to highlight how the sector is able to lead the way to action in addressing the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs and its associated harms among Indigenous Australians. Call for papers and online registration will be available from June 2011 at http://nidacconference.com.au/

Save the date:
12th National Rural Health Conference
7-10 April 2013
Adelaide
The NRHA e-forum is published fortnightly. 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). Contributions received by the Friday of publication will be included in the e-forum.

The NRHA e-forum 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. Jim Groves can be contacted at grovesc@winshop.com.au

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

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**Media Release**  
22 July 2011  
**A strong rural focus will keep all Australians healthier**

The National Rural Health Alliance welcomes the establishment of an Advisory Council to support the work of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency but warns that to have true national success, health promotion campaigns will need to be designed to be effective in rural and remote Australia and not just in cities.

Alliance chairperson, Jenny May, urged the Advisory Council to prioritise some of its efforts specifically towards the 32 per cent of Australia’s population who live in rural and remote communities, particularly those who are the most isolated and most disadvantaged.

"Australian communities are very diverse, and programs will be more effective if they are tailored to suit the characteristics of the communities in which there is greatest need," Dr May said.

Mainstream health promotion campaigns are generally designed for metropolitan areas. The fact that these may be less effective in rural and remote areas was clearly illustrated during the decade to 2004-2005 when smoking rates fell significantly in metropolitan areas but increased or remained the same in rural and remote areas.

"Therefore the greatest health gains, both for individuals and nationally, are to be made through successful health promotion in rural and remote areas. This will require greater allocation of resources in areas where the health need is greater and where there is less access to healthcare professionals, supporting infrastructure and communication. There is also a need for a stronger focus on the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," Dr May said.

The Alliance urges the Advisory Council to understand and address underlying causes of risk behaviours in rural areas and to engage local communities in program design. Strategies
could include partnering with local organisations, training the local health workforce in preventive health, creating messages that are relevant for rural and remote communities, using communications channels most accessible in rural Australia, and placing messages in accessible locations (for example local grocery stores, sports events, agricultural shows).

"Through her work as Chair of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, Christine Bennett has good understanding of the health profile of rural Australia. As newly appointed head of the Advisory Council* Professor Bennett is in an ideal position to ensure that the particular characteristics and needs of rural and remote communities are targeted for health promotion," said Dr May.