

ANZAHPE ... highlighting possibilities for rural health professional educators

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The Australian and New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE) is the peak professional body for all those involved in health professional education—educators and students. It aims to promote, support and advance education in the health professions, and to facilitate communication between educators.

One of the association's stated objectives is:

To ensure, for the benefit of the community in general, that medical and health professional education is fostered and developed to maintain the highest possible standard, to the end that medical and health professionals are better trained, equipped and educated to provide medical and health assistance to the community.

ANZAHPE will present the range of opportunities it offers across all health professions and locations which includes:

- Meetings: The ANZAHPE Annual Conference, centred each year around a specific theme, offers an opportunity for sharing ideas and information, networking and professional development.
- A refereed journal: *Focus on Health Professional Education* is published three times a year. The journal includes original papers and other contributions on all aspects of health professional education, including undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing education.
- Awards: The association sponsors a number of awards aimed at providing recognition and encouragement for educators, researchers and students.
- Networks: *The ANZAHPE Bulletin* is published four times a year and includes current events, personal viewpoints and Association news.

ANZAHPE's presentation will highlight:

- the benefits to individuals and organisations in academic or clinical settings of engagement with a representational body for those involved in health professions education

- ANZAHPE's ability to facilitate the coming together of educators from all health professions
- the membership structure which provides a pathway from student member to full membership to encourage early career educators to continue their professional development with ANZAHPE

ANZAHPE is a collegial body that can provide meaningful interaction for rurally based academics, clinical supervisors, researchers in health professional education and staff of health education units together with students of health professional courses and students of higher degrees.

In highlighting ANZAHPE to rural educators we aim to increase awareness with those who could benefit from the various opportunities ANZAHPE offers, and for ANZAHPE to acknowledge the importance of engagement with rural educators to ANZAHPE'S overall mission to represent the health professional education workforce.