

people p Places Possibilities

13TH NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH CONFERENCE
24-27 May 2015, Darwin Convention Centre, NT

Abstract Guidelines

If you would like to be on the program for the 13th National Rural Health Conference, providing an abstract is the first step. The Darwin Conference we will be focusing on the *People Places Possibilities* of Australia's rural and remote areas.

Abstract categories, topics and assessment criteria

Abstracts are sought in the following categories:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Research | Previously unpublished research reports, using quantitative and/or qualitative methods. |
| Service review | Practical reports of projects on the ground and models of successful service delivery. |
| Policy | Analysis of public policies, not necessarily in the health sector, that impact on health in rural and remote areas. |
| Arts | Arts and health activities with a rural or remote angle. |

[Attachment A](#) includes a list of potential **topics**, provided to illustrate the breadth of interest of the Conference and some of the current priority areas that abstracts (and then papers) might cover. It also includes the assessment criteria used to rank and select abstracts.

Abstracts written from a health consumer standpoint, or with a multidisciplinary focus about service challenges being overcome will be particularly welcome.



Types of presentations for which abstracts can be submitted

For each abstract, authors are asked to indicate the type of presentation for which it is submitted, from the following options:

A general paper presentation - 20 minutes.

Full paper to be published in Conference Proceedings (see *Note on publication* below).

A peer-reviewed paper presentation- 20 minutes.

A full paper prepared before the Conference will be subject to a formal review process and authors will be expected to accommodate the suggestions of the reviewers prior to final acceptance of their paper. If the full paper is published in Conference Proceedings (see *Note on publication* below) it will be identified as 'peer-reviewed'. Peer-reviewed papers published in the Proceedings will be eligible for inclusion in the Department of Education's Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC).

A soapbox presentation - 10 minutes.

Full paper to be published in Conference Proceedings (see *Note on publication* below).

A poster presentation

The author(s) should be available during poster sessions to discuss the poster's content with people at the Conference. Where possible, an electronic version of the poster (pdf, jpg) will be published in Conference Proceedings; if not available electronically, the submitted abstract will be published.

All presenting authors will be encouraged to include at least one policy recommendation in their final paper.

Following a blind review process by the Abstract Review Panel, authors will be contacted about the status of their abstract. Successful authors may be offered the presentation type of their choice or they may be offered a place in a colloquium, workshop, soapbox or as a poster presentation. The Program Committee will manage workshops, colloquiums and arts and health presentations.

Note on publication of Conference Proceedings: In order to spread the word about issues discussed at the Conference to those unable to attend, the Alliance produces a set of Conference Proceedings and publishes it online after the event. Unless special arrangements have been made with the Alliance, all presenters are required to provide a full written paper (maximum 3,000 words) for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings. If an author makes a particular case for submitting their paper for publication elsewhere, they will be asked to prepare a one-page summary of their presentation for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings.

Conditions relating to abstracts

- Abstracts should relate to **previously unpublished** papers, so that all papers presented at the Conference are original.
- Author names should not appear on the abstract itself; all abstracts will go through a 'blind' selection process, with **no reference to author** or affiliation details.
- Abstracts should be no more than 400 words and should be uploaded electronically via www.ruralhealth.org.au/13nrhc
- Authors may **submit** abstracts for more than one presentation.
- Submitting one or more abstract is **no guarantee** of a place on the Conference program.
- Assistance with the presentation of an abstract is available, particularly to first-time presenters. Where appropriate, assistance can also be offered for the preparation of full papers and presentations.
- For further information contact speakers@ruralhealth.org.au or phone **02 6285 4660**.

Format of abstracts

An abstract should summarise the important points of the proposed presentation and highlight the original content to be communicated. It needs to be concise yet informative, and contain an outline of the aims, methods, relevance, results and conclusions of the work undertaken.

- Abstracts should be **no longer than 400 words**
- Abstract titles should be **no more than 12 words** and the file name of the document to be uploaded should be the **same** as the title of your abstract.
- Abstracts **should not include author details**. The blind review process requires the abstracts to be anonymous. However, as part of the online submission process, you will be asked to provide author details separately. Abstracts should be Word documents uploaded electronically via www.ruralhealth.org.au
- Abstracts **should not include tables, figures or references**.

Submission methods

Abstracts should be submitted online via www.ruralhealth.org.au

Authors who are not able to submit their abstract online are asked to contact speakers@ruralhealth.org.au to arrange to submit a hard copy.

Successful abstracts

Authors of successful abstracts will be offered a place on the Conference program. After accepting the offer to present at the Conference you will be:

- eligible to register at a discounted registration fee;
- asked to provide a short speaker's biography for inclusion in the Conference Handbook;
- asked to produce a full written paper for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings to be published on the Alliance's website;
- provided with Paper Guidelines and a timeline for the preparation of your full paper (see [Attachment B](#)); and

- confirmed on the program when your full paper is received.



Attachment A

Potential topics

Note: this list is provided to illustrate the breadth of interest of the Conference and some of the current priority areas that abstracts (and then papers) might cover.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities: education, work and health
- advocating for change in rural health
- architecture of the rural and remote health system (PHNs, LHNs)
- arts and health
- chronic disease: identification, monitoring and management
- climate change and health
- community controlled health services
- fair go for rural health consumers
- funding of health care: fee-for-service, public sector, mixed mode
- health care, aged care and care for those living with a disability
- health economics
- health education: a life course approach for all disciplines
- health workforce challenges: overcoming
- health, place, and socio-economic status
- healthy ageing in the Bush
- illness prevention
- measuring health need in rural and remote communities
- media's role in rural and remote health
- medicines and professional pharmacy services
- mental health and wellbeing
- mining communities (morbidity; service models)
- models of service delivery in rural and remote areas
- morbidity: changing burden
- natural disasters: lessons from
- Northern Australia: development of
- occupational health and safety: rural/remote
- private sector: role of x
- quality and safety in rural and remote settings
- recruitment and retention
- research on rural and remote health: data, evidence
- social determinants of rural health: education, industry, transport, housing
- State/Territory and Commonwealth: 'federalism'
- teamwork in health
- technology and rural and remote health
- travel and accommodation: for health

Criteria for the assessment of abstracts

The criteria used by the Abstract Review Panel will be as follows:

Current and relevant: the presentation will have an emphasis on and/or relevance to current health issues in rural and/or remote Australia (ie it's a paper for this Conference, not another).

Analytical: the presentation will provide more than a description of a program or service; it will draw out insights, what was learned, recommend new policies and/or actions.

New knowledge: it will provide new ideas or develop further what we already know or have shared previously (ie it is new news, not old).

Conference theme and topics: it will offer something significant or unique relating to the Conference theme: *People Places Possibilities*.

Broadening health: it may promote understanding of the range of factors and disciplines that impact on the health and wellbeing of rural and remote people.

Quality: it is of high quality scientifically and/or in other ways.

Note: Abstracts written from a health consumer standpoint, or with a multidisciplinary focus about service challenges being overcome will be particularly welcome.



Attachment B

Timeline for abstracts and papers

There are two timelines – one for **peer-reviewed papers** and one for **general papers and all other presentation types**.

Timeline for peer-reviewed papers

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|------------------|--|
| 1 August 2014 | Call for abstracts opens |
| 28 November 2014 | Call for abstracts closes |
| 30 January 2015 | Authors of peer-reviewed papers receive offers |
| 20 February 2015 | Successful authors confirm participation and provide 200 word biography |
| 27 February 2015 | Conditional program published on Conference website (subject to change) |
| 27 March 2015 | Full papers provided to NRHA for reviewing |
| 13 April 2015 | Reviewers' comments received and sent to authors |
| 21 April 2015 | Revised peer-reviewed papers due taking into account reviewers' comments |
| 28 April 2015 | Peer-reviewed authors receive final confirmation of place on the program |
| 24-27 May 2015 | 13 th National Rural Health Conference |
| July 2015 | Publication of Conference Proceedings |

Timeline for general papers and all other presentation types

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 August 2014 | Call for abstracts opens |
| 28 November 2014 | Call for abstracts closes |
| 30 January 2015 | Authors receive notification of outcome of abstract – successful, waitlisted or unsuccessful |
| 20 February 2015 | Successful authors confirm acceptance and provide 200 word biography |
| 27 February 2015 | Conditional program published on Conference website |
| 28 April 2015 | Authors to submit full written paper for inclusion in Proceedings |
| 24-27 May 2015 | 13 th National Rural Health Conference |
| June 2015 | Workshop / colloquium reports due for inclusion in Proceedings |
| July 2015 | Publication of Conference Proceedings |

Questions about the abstract process may be directed to speakers@ruralhealth.org.au or by phone to **02 6285 4660**.

