SYMPOSIUM 2007

Emergency medicine in rural Australia

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Our Aim

Sustainable, high quality emergency services available to cover the entire population of Australia providing timely access to emergency care and articulating into secondary and tertiary level care when needed.
IT’S DIFFERENT IN THE BUSH

• Broader range of skills and knowledge than city based specialists
• Lack of peer support and specialist back up
• Limited physical resources and ancillary staff
• Long lead times to retrieval
MAJOR THEMES

- TEAMS
- LOCAL CAPACITY
- MODELS
- FUNDING
- POLICY
The Team

- Ambulance Officers
- Paramedics
- Nurses
- Wardsmen
- Doctors
- Social Workers
- Hospital Administrators
- Retrieval Teams
- Remote Consultants
TEAMS

VERTICAL INTEGRATION

TRUST & RESPECT

CONFIDENCE

TRAINING

A SUPPORTIVE SYSTEM
• **ON SITE TEAM TRAINING**

• **SUPPORT FOR ISOLATED HEALTH WORKERS**
  First aid, CPD, teaching & learning opportunities, part of emergency infrastructure & regional strategy

• **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN WIDER COMMUNITY**
  Police, SES recognized as part of regional emergency strategy

• **COMBINED LEARNING FOR ALL TEAM MEMBERS**

*The basic knowledge required is across disciplines*
SUPPORT, COUNSELLING & DEBRIEFING SHOULD BE INTEGRAL & FUNDED PARTS OF RURAL EMERGENCY CARE

JOINT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING REGULAR INTERACTIVE SESSIONS WITH EMERGENCY SPECIALISTS AND STAFF AT RECEIVING HOSPITALS SUPPLEMENTED BY ONSITE TRAINING & CLINICAL ATTACHMENTS

MANDATORY TRAINING

DECISION MAKING MATRIX
Being connected

- Familiar names and faces
- Familiarity with local resources
- Confidence in the information being given
- Reassurance that help will be at hand
- Strengthened during skills maintenance activities
MODELS

SCOOP & RUN vs STAY & STABILIZE

Photo by Barry Smith, *The Northern Daily Leader*, 5/12/03
RISKS

• Risk of deterioration during transport

• Risk to retrieval/transfer providers

• Criticism for not transferring & criticism for transferring

• Losing input into the patient’s management

• Removal from community and family

• Undermining local capacity
For the safety and comfort of all users of this beach and reserve, please observe the prohibition and general warning symbols.

Council local laws. On the spot fines apply by order C.E.O.

- Dogs exercise area
- No horses
- No alcohol
- No overnight stay
- No fires
- No littering
- No motorbikes
- No nudity
- No fish cleaning

If stung, douse area with vinegar and seek medical aid. Dial 000 in an emergency.

General warnings:
- Unstable cliffs
- Slippery rocks
- Swimming not advised
- Strong currents
- No life saving service

Ganttheaume Point is a marine coastal protection area. No collection of rock or shell permitted.

6 km cable beach
April to October
Retaining local & regional capacity

Emergencies will occur

You can call in the cavalry…
A composite model

- Retention of local capacity
- Retrieval services from regional or metropolitan centre
FUNDING

• Training & upskilling
• Equipment & infrastructure
• Removing current inequities in MBS funding
• Exploring new models of funding
POLICY

Development of common pathways: agreement on core curricula across disciplines

Development of a national framework for emergency management systems, including basic training, infrastructure & equipment, that can be refined at the State & regional level in line with specific environments & local resources
For further information or to receive a copy of the final document:

POLICY @RDAA.COM.AU