National Rural Health Alliance eforum - 15 February 2013

In this issue:
* January 2013 eNews from the Alliance
* "No farmers - no food": Farmers and mental illness
* ANU's APHCRI to partner with 12th Rural Health Conference
* Social determinants of health
* 11th Biennial National Rural Remote Social Work Conference
* 12th National Rural Health Conference
* Rural Health on Twitter
* Federal Government News
* Australian Journal of Rural Health
* Research and Data
* Rural Health on the ABC
* ACRRM Country Watch
* Lowitja Institute eBulletin
* Articles in Rural and Remote Health
* Australian Rural Doctor Newsletter
* RDAA News
* What's On
* Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer
* Full text of "No farmers - no food": Farmers and mental illness
* Full text of ANU's APHCRI to partner with 12th Rural Health Conference

JANUARY 2013 eNEWS FROM THE ALLIANCE

Register now for the 12th National Rural Health Conference
People with a strong commitment to a bright future for rural and remote Australia can find out everything they need to know about the 12th Conference here: http://nrha.org.au/12nrhc/.
The program is almost finalised and there is something for everyone, including on healthy ageing, rates of smoking, Indigenous eye health, resilient rural women, mining towns, bush babies, food security, the NDIS, nursing in the bush, managing natural hazards and oral health. See more on the Conference below.

Social determinants, rural KPIs, data - our ongoing aspiration for equal health
The Senate's Inquiry into Australia's approach to the social determinants of health has given fresh impetus to the Alliance's consideration of this issue. There is also greater focus than ever on how the relatively poor health of people in rural and remote areas is measured, with the COAG Reform Council producing valuable national evidence; the Rural Health Standing Committee of AHMAC working up performance indicators to be used by the States
and Territories and the Commonwealth; and the National Health Performance Authority leading on reporting by Medicare Local. The Alliance is engaged at all these levels and is refining a proposal for the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to play a central role as a clearing house and national adviser on rural health data. The Alliance is also developing a proposal about how data on specific conditions or health service interventions can be used to develop a practical rural health service indicator.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
With bi-partisan political support, the NDIS is scheduled to commence on 1 July 2013 in five selected launch sites around the country. A full roll-out in participating States will occur over the following four years. Further details are available at www.ndis.gov.au. The Alliance has made a submission to the Senate Inquiry on the NDIS Bill.

The Alliance has won support from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) for a project to identify some of the best ways of ensuring access to the NDIS for people in rural and remote areas. What are the special challenges faced by people with a disability, a carer or a service provider in those areas? What do you think are the most practical solutions for this scheme to be effective? Please forward your thoughts and ideas to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au.

Dental dollars
The Alliance joined with five other national bodies in writing to Premiers and Chief Ministers to encourage them to sign up to the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) with the Commonwealth on the funding of public dental services. The NPA makes additional funding available immediately for the treatment of low-income adults if the States agree to maintain at 2010-11 levels the dental services funded through their own resources. See joint media release.

AJRH 2013
Now in its 21st year of publication, AJRH continues to publish high quality research articles. Check out the free virtual issues on disasters, rural workforce research, mental health and Indigenous health. Other free resources include Top papers since 2010 and Top 2011 Downloaded papers 2011.

Work with Health Workforce Australia (HWA)
The Alliance is pleased to be engaged with HWA on the development of Health LEADS Australia, a framework for leadership development in the health sector, to ensure it is practical and reaches the rural and remote health workforce. The Alliance has also proposed a collaborative project between HWA, the Department of Health and Ageing and the Alliance to develop and implement a campaign to promote rural health careers and career pathways.

Rural keynote at Health-e-Nation Leadership Summit
Jeff Ayton will be presenting on The Rural & Remote Challenge at the Health-e-Nation Leadership Summit on Wednesday 20 March 2013. Jeff is the Chief Medical Officer, Polar Medicine Unit; Immediate Past President of the Australia College of Rural and Remote Medicine and Chair of the ACRRM Telehealth Advisory Group.

The Alliance is supporting the Health-e-Nation event again this year to build awareness of rural and remote issues among the industry speakers and others who bring a wealth of practical insight and advice. With telehealth and eHealth records being rolled out, the
Alliance encourages member organisations to consider lending their voices on rural issues through registration for this event.

RHCE2
There is information here on funded RHCE2 projects. If you have photos of your RHCE2 project activities, we would like to put them on the RHCE2 website. Please contact the RHCE2 Program Manager to organise this on (02) 61623374.

NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship applications now open
Applications for the 2013 NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship, funded by Senator John Williams, close on 18 February. The scholarship, valued at $4,800, is for a first-year dental student with strong links to regional New South Wales.

Rural Australian Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS)
The 2013 Application round for RAMUS closed on 14 January. Applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application by late February 2013.

More on the 12th Conference
Conference Recommendations
All delegates at the 12th Conference will be able to contribute recommendations via the Sharing Shed and interested people who are not attending will be able to follow the recommendations on-line as they develop. For information about how this new process will work visit the Recommendations page of the Conference website.

Pre-Conference events
There are pre-Conference events (Sunday 7 April) on medicines in the bush, dealing with depression, writing for publication, health service management, and public health facilities in rural areas.

Writing a grant application
The Conference will include a breakfast workshop on Wednesday 10 April on 'Writing a Grant Application'. Please let conference organisers know if you are interested in attending.

Photo and Poetry Competitions - $500 first prize
Friends of the Alliance welcome your entry into the 2013 photo and poetry competitions. $500 will be awarded to the winner of each category and $250 to entries in second place. Winners are chosen by popular vote at the Conference. You are welcome to submit imagery or poetry on any subject matter relating to living and working in rural or remote Australia. To download an entry form visit the Friends page of the Alliance website.

Join Friends in 2013
Members of Friends are entitled to a discounted Conference registration fee and eligible for a 12-month online subscription to the Australian Journal of Rural Health for an additional $62.70. An application form is available on the Friends webpage.

Exhibition booths and eSatchel inserts are still available for purchase.

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters: SA Health, APHCRI, HESTA, the Department of Health and Ageing, Arts SA, the Adelaide Convention Bureau and the Australian Indigenous
Register now to help keep rural health on the agenda for the Election.

Follow #ruralhealthconf on Twitter @NRHAlliance.

"NO FARMERS - NO FOOD": FARMERS AND MENTAL ILLNESS

The vulnerability of male farmers doesn't often make front page news, but it's something that Australians should be aware of. Why should we care? For one thing, as the saying goes: "No farmers - no food". We depend on them for much of what we eat. Male farmers experience high levels of job-related stress, high rates of suicide and they have low rates of seeking professional help. They are generally stoical and self-sufficient, sometimes preferring alcohol or drug overuse to seeking out someone to talk to about their emotional problems. Philippe Roy and his co-authors examine this issue in the latest Australian Journal of Rural Health (AJRH). The authors state that male farmers' mental health disorders, many of which can lead to suicide, need targeted suicide prevention programs.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au and is reproduced below.

ANU's APHCRI TO PARTNER WITH RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) at the Australian National University is partnering with the NRHA in the 12th National Rural Health Conference. The joint statement is at http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au and is reproduced below.

RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTHCARE POLICY THINK TANK OPPORTUNITY

Innovative health care models to meet the needs of people living in rural and remote areas and more flexible funding arrangements for the services that cater for those needs - does that sound familiar? It's what the National Health Care Reform program was promoting in 2011. Two years later, do you think it is happening? Come and have your say - and listen to what others think about it - at the joint AHHA/NRHA Rural and Remote Policy Think Tank to be held in conjunction with the National Rural Health Conference this April. See Alliance statement at http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
The Senate Inquiry relating to the WHO Social Determinants of Health report *Closing the gap within a generation* is throwing a very useful spotlight on this critical issue. Just how can Australia reduce the inequities in people's access to resources, income, education and power which do so much to determine health outcomes? [Read more](#).

A new [Social Determinants of Health Alliance](#) was launched in Canberra on Thursday 7 February. Its dual purposes are to have the Australian Government sign up to the recommendations in the WHO report and to assist Australia to achieve the report's goals.

See the NRHA's submission on the WHO report at [http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au)

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**11th BIENNIAL NATIONAL RURAL REMOTE SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE**

`Diversity in Rural and Remote Communities: Responding to Challenges & Opportunities`

25th and 26th July 2013
RACV Resort - Inverloch


Contact: Martin Butler [mpbutler@bigpond.com](mailto:mpbutler@bigpond.com), Olga Gountras
[olga.gountras@slatergordon.com.au](mailto:olga.gountras@slatergordon.com.au)

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**12th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE**

*Strong Commitment. Bright Future*

**12th National Rural Health Conference eNews #3**

A detailed [program](#) for the 12th National Rural Health Conference is now available on the Conference [website](#) and we hope it will entice you to join us in Adelaide from 7 to 10 April 2013.

Exhibition booths are still available so if you want to promote your organisation to over 1,000 delegates [book a booth](#) now. The exhibition hall will be the place to be with lots of activities including 50 exhibitors, 30 posters, all catering and a range of arts and health activities.

There will be several [pre-conference meetings](#) on the Sunday morning including *Medicines in the Bush, AJRH Writing for Publication Workshop* and *Dealing with Depression*. Other [activities](#) on the Sunday will include a bus tour to health facilities at Mt Barker, Strathalbyn and Goolwa, courtesy of Country Health SA, and an Aboriginal culture walk around Adelaide with local elder Ivan Copley.

Local composer, Robert Petchell will be managing a [musical sound project: The sound of many places](#). Delegates who play a musical instrument are encouraged to bring their instrument and join this group to produce a special piece of music highlighting the sounds of rural and remote Australia. The group will be provided with music to practise well before the Conference and will rehearse as a group each morning of the Conference culminating in a
performance of the specially-commissioned piece during the closing session. If you would like to be part of this group please email your contact details and type of instrument to conference@ruralhealth.org.au.

Thank you to our sponsors SA Health, HESTA, Arts SA, the Adelaide Convention Bureau and the Department of Health and Ageing.

The Conference website will keep you up-to-date on the latest developments with the 12th National Rural Health Conference.

12th National Rural Health Conference
Strong Commitment. Bright Future.
Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia
7-10 April 2013
Bookmark the website: http://nrha.org.au/12nrhc/
Further information: 02 6285 4660 or conference@ruralhealth.org.au

RURAL HEALTH ON TWITTER!

National Rural Health Alliance - https://twitter.com/NRHAAlliance
Tim Dornan keynote for Remote Medical Education Conference 2013 http://rmeconference.wordpress.com/2013/02/11/tim-dornan-interview/
Austn Jrl of Rural Health - Supporting GP advanced rural skills training - Feb issue out now - http://bit.ly/XTYVXB #ruralhealth #AJRH
Don't miss this opportunity to keep rural health on the political agenda this election year! http://www.nrha.org.au/12nrhc #ruralhealthconf
We are pleased to announce Minister @tanya_plibersek to address delegates 12th Nat Rural Health Conf, Adelaide, April 2013 #ruralhealthconf
AJRH article highlights need for holistic support for GP advanced rural skills training @NRHAlliance http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1440-1584.2012.01315.x/abstract
The NT govt isn't going ahead with accommodation facility for remote patients http://bit.ly/10jWKg9 Express your opposition to @DavidTollner #ruralhealth #SDOH
NRHA #NDIS submission to Senate inquiry says rural & remote people have unique needs - http://bit.ly/Y0Z4bM #disability @EveryAustralian

Thank you to Heart Foundation for organising early morning walks for delegates at #ruralhealthconf [http://www.nrha.org.au/12nrhc](http://www.nrha.org.au/12nrhc) @HeartAust

For discounted online subscription to Australian Journal of Rural Health join Friends of the Alliance - [http://bit.ly/To5WlR](http://bit.ly/To5WlR) - #AJRH #friends

Male farmers with mental health disorders: scoping review (pgs 3-7) #depression #genderissue #resilience #ruralhealth [http://bit.ly/WQ1SY0](http://bit.ly/WQ1SY0)


#AJRH #ruralhealth

50 on-farm injury deaths reported in Australian print media last year - Aust Centre Ag Health & Safety [http://www.aghealth.org.au](http://www.aghealth.org.au) #ruralhealth

Good talk today with Lib Rural and Regional Caucus Committee about determinants of rural health and workforce #ruralhealth #sdoh #auspol

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**RESEARCH AND DATA**

Review of cardiovascular health among Indigenous Australians

In 2004-05, long-term heart and related conditions were 1.2 times more common for Indigenous males and 1.4 times more common for Indigenous females than for their non-Indigenous counterparts.

[http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au](http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au)

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**PHOTO AND POETRY COMPETITIONS - $500 FIRST PRIZE**

Friends of the Alliance welcome your entry into the 2013 photo and poetry competitions. $500 will be awarded to the winner of each category and $250 to entries in second place. Winners are chosen by popular vote at the 12th Rural Health Conference. You are welcome to submit imagery or poetry on any subject matter relating to living and working in rural or remote Australia. To download an entry form visit the Friends page of the Alliance website at [http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/Friends/?IntCatId=4](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/Friends/?IntCatId=4).

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**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS**

Faster broadband for regional and remote Australia

The Gillard Government announced that all Australians will now have access to faster speeds on the National Broadband Network than they can get today over the ageing copper network,
following an upgrade to the NBN's fixed wireless and satellite services. The NBN's fixed wireless and long term satellite services will be upgraded to provide broadband speeds of 25 megabits per second download and 5 megabits per second upload (25/5 Mbps). This upgrade represents a doubling of speeds for the NBN's fixed wireless and satellite services.

http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au

Fifth annual Closing the Gap Statement
Australia is making some progress on targets to reduce indigenous disadvantage but high incarceration rates remain a blind spot. Ms Gillard told parliament there were small improvements in mortality rates of children under five, year 12 attainment levels and employment. But the gap in life expectancy was widening, as life expectancy increased in the non-indigenous population, and would be "enormously challenging" to close. The gap is now 11.5 years between non-indigenous and indigenous men and 9.7 years between women.

http://www.pm.gov.au
http://www.fahcsia.gov.au

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 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

February 2013 issue now available. Contents include:
Editorial - Do we need rural health researchers living in rural Australia?
Review Article - Male farmers with mental health disorders: A scoping review
Original Researches
A hub and spokes approach to building community capacity for eating disorders in rural Western Australia
The influence of social support, lifestyle and functional disability on psychological distress in rural China: Structural equation modelling
Understanding Autism and understanding my child with Autism: An evaluation of a group parent education program in rural Australia
Utilisation of multidisciplinary services for diabetes care in the rural setting
Community understanding of the preventability of major health conditions as a measure of health literacy
Supporting GP advanced rural skills training
Short Reports
Increasing the feasibility of the Role Functioning Scale as a measure of consumer outcomes
in a rural Personal Helpers and Mentors service
An uncommon presentation of Hashimoto's disease
From the Journal Associates
CRANAPlus 31st National Conference - 25-28 September 2013
The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
Filler - Moving from the city to the country

RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

Aboriginal medical group wants politics taken out of alcohol debate (AM - 07/02/2013)
http://abcmail.net.au

ACRRM COUNTRY WATCH
(Subscribe by email to acrrm@acrrm.org.au)

8 February 2013
* Next one-day ALS courses in Sydney: 9 or 10 March
* Changes to the AST EM procedural skills logbook
* Network events: inspire junior doctors and med students
* Students! Register your interest in applying for the John Flynn program
* Alerts! Therapeutic Goods Administration

LOWITJA INSTITUTE eBULLETIN
(Subscribe here)

4 February 2013
* Communications survey
* Condolences
* Australia Day Honours List 2013
* Call for continued Lowitja Institute funding
* Launch of the National Indigenous Cancer Network
* What's new at the Lowitja Institute
* 2013 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science
* Conferences
* Events
* Jobs
* Media
* Publications
* Scholarships, funding, grants and tenders
* Seminars and Courses
**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](http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice). A limited number of printed tool kits are available on request by emailing [infoservice@lifeline.org.au](mailto:infoservice@lifeline.org.au). For more information please visit [http://www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au). If you are in need of 24 hour crisis support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

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

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**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](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/aodr/register.jsp) to be an Australian Organ Donor now!

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**ARTICLES IN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH**

'Work-integrated learning (WIL) supervisors and non-supervisors of allied health professional students'

Australia’s remote Northern Territory is an attractive placement environment for allied health students, nation-wide. However the same attributes that attract undergraduates, contribute to attrition of the NT allied health professional workforce. This comprehensive study analyses the NT AHP workforce according to the attitudes and vocational values of those who supervise students, and those who don't. [http://www.rrh.org.au](http://www.rrh.org.au)

Climate change and health research: has it served rural communities?’

This herculean survey of the climate change health and social sciences literature introduces 'concept mapping' as a method to support vulnerable rural communities' adaption to the health challenges of climate change. [http://www.rrh.org.au](http://www.rrh.org.au)

'Functional outcomes in high risk ICU patients in Central Australia: a prospective case series'

What can be done to enhance functional outcomes in high-risk patients admitted to rural ICU? The authors of this small prospective study put the case for follow up. [http://www.rrh.org.au](http://www.rrh.org.au)
Factors influencing rural and urban emergency clinicians' participation in an online knowledge exchange intervention

Internet based learning modules can be an important source of support for physicians on the front lines. Pediatric care can be quite complex and specialized pediatric centers are rare. Urban and rural emergency physicians need sources of information. Do they access learning modules, each other, or other sources of support? Are there rural-urban differences in the sources of information?

http://www.rrh.org.au

Validation and enhancement of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychiatric hospitalisation statistics through an Indigenous Mental Health Worker register

Accurate health-service usage data is essential for equitable service provision, especially for underserved populations - but how accurate is official data? This study used a unique register kept by an Australia Indigenous Mental Health Worker to verify official health system identification of Indigenous status among patients, demonstrating the power of a specific style of record-keeping for a specific population.


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:

http://www.bss.crana.org.au

AUSTRALIAN RURAL DOCTOR NEWSLETTER

(Subscribe at http://www.ruraldr.com.au/)

* Rural super clinics still far from opening
* More support urged for rural registrars
* GP care enough for rural patients
* Should MBS rebates favour rural consults?
* Opinion - Dr Chris Swan
* Opinion - Dr Sheilagh Cronin
* Rural registrars feel like 'second-class citizens'
* Eating disorder education improves primary care
* GP care sufficient for rural diabetes patients
* Why rural Aussies treat cancer late
* Medicare Local bails out rural hospital
* High GP support for chiropractors: study
* Agency to tackle cancer among Indigenous
* Aeromedical retrieval
Rural health not a 'budget buster', docs tell Government
http://www.rdaa.com.au

National Rural Women's Conference - February 2013
Canberra
18 - 20 February 2013
The Conference will bring more than 500 women from regional, rural and remote Australia to learn, discuss challenges, celebrate and share their vision for the future. Australia's favourite cook, Maggie Beer, Fashion Designer Liz Davenport, and Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick are just some of the speakers. Visit www.nrwc.com.au for more information.

The 15th Annual Health Congress
27th, 28th Feb & 1st March 2013
Radisson Blue Plaza, Sydney

Every Body's Business - Getting back to basic
Target Audience: Nurses and allied health professionals
The Continence Foundation of Australia invites you to attend a FREE one-day education forum for health professionals about getting back to the basics of continence care. This multidisciplinary forum will feature presentations from experts in the field of continence and local practitioners.
Friday March 15, 2013 9am -4pm
Quality Hotel Lord Forrest, 20 Symmons St Bunbury WA
www.continence.org.au/events

Reinventing Community Organisations for a New Century: Voice, Belonging, Social Infrastructure, Governance
National Conference
Monday 25 March 2013

World Health Day
12th National Rural Health Conference: Strong Commitment. Bright Future
7 - 10 April 2013
Adelaide, SA
If you are committed to a bright future for people living in rural and remote Australia mark this date in your diary now and come to Adelaide in April 2013. The first Conference Advisory Committee has been held and planning has commenced. You will receive a call for abstracts postcard with the next edition of Party-line so start planting ideas if you have something innovative to share with the rural and remote health community. Further information: 02 6285 4660 or conference@ruralhealth.org.au

World Day for Safety and Health at Work
28 April 2013

APNA Conference 2013
2 - 4 May 2013
Sebel Hotel, 64 Queens Rd, Melbourne
http://www.apna.asn.au

7th Australian Women's Conference ‘Gender Matters: Determining Women's Health'
7-10 May 2013
Sydney
The conference will continue Australia's focus on showcasing cutting edge research and best practice approaches in women's health policy and practice locally, across Australia and internationally.

Activity Based Funding Conference 2013
13 - 16 May 2013
Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre
The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) is pleased to announce its Activity Based Funding Conference 2013. This conference is a four day event consisting of a two day conference (15-16 May 2013) and two days of pre-conference workshops (13-14 May 2013). IHPA's Activity Based Funding Conference 2013 will bring together local and international experts to discuss health reform and the best approaches to implementing activity based
funding in Australian public hospitals. With the commencement of Activity Based Funding in July 2012, this year's conference will focus specifically on:
* Implementing Activity Based Funding locally
* Future directions for classification development
* Costing issues at the hospital level
* Pricing safety and quality
* Pricing and funding model development
For more information please visit [www.abfconference2013.com](http://www.abfconference2013.com)

**Heart Foundation Conference 2013**
4th Heart Foundation Conference
Prevention of cardiovascular disease: translating evidence into practice
16 - 18 May 2013
Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia.
The Heart Foundation is the leading organisation in the fight against cardiovascular disease in Australia. The conference will host leading international and Australian speakers showcasing the latest updates on key clinical, research and public health cardiovascular disease issues.
Register your interest by calling 08 9389 1488 or visit [http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/about-us/conference/Pages/welcome.aspx](http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/about-us/conference/Pages/welcome.aspx)

**International Council of Nurses 25th Quadrennial Congress**
18 - 23 May 2013
Melbourne
[http://www.icn.ch](http://www.icn.ch)

**2nd Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health Conference, Working together to Close the Gap: Building on success for the future**
29 - 30 May 2013
Perth
[amssu@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:amssu@health.wa.gov.au) or phone (08) 9340 1555

**5th SNAICC National Conference For Our Children: Living and Learning Together**
4 - 6 June 2013
Cairns Convention Centre
The conference is hosted by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC), the national non-government peak body in Australia representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Enquiries to Sharyn Low, tel 02 4572 3079 or email [sharyn@sharynlow.com.au](mailto:sharyn@sharynlow.com.au)
The inaugural conference for Women's Healthcare Australasia
5 - 7 June
Gold Coast, Queensland
http://women.wcha.asn.au/

4th Australasian Mental Health Outcomes & Information Conference 2013
11 - 13 June 2013
Novotel Brighton Beach Sydney

21st National Conference Australian Health Promotion Association: 'Changing Settings: liveable, vibrant, healthy places'
17 - 19 June 2013
Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour
The focus of this conference will be on settings in health promotion with emphasis on workplaces, children's environments, local government as well as the virtual communities and the role of social media in health promotion. http://www.ahpa2013.com.au/

Remote Medical Education Conference
Sofitel Hotel, Brisbane
28 - 29 June 2013
The conference will explore how the educational needs of remotely-located doctors can be addressed depending upon location and cultural context, while considering the role that new technology plays in the delivery and enhancement of learning.

2013 Primary Health Care Research Conference
10 - 12 July
Hilton, Sydney
2013 ILCA Conference: Born to Breastfeed: A Global Public Health Imperative
25 - 28 July
Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
http://www.ilca.org

14th International Mental Health Conference 2013
5 - 6 August 2013
Outrigger, Surfers Paradise
http://anzmh.asn.au/conference/

United Nation's International Day of the World's Indigenous People
9 August

Health Emergencies in Disasters 2013
17 - 19 August 2013
Darwin Convention Centre
Click here for further information

LIME Connection V: Re-imagining Indigenous Health Education: Harnessing energy, implementing evidence, creating change
26 - 28 August 2013
Darwin
The fifth biennial LIME Connection will continue to support collaboration between medical schools and build linkages with other health disciplines. The LIMElight Awards, which acknowledge and celebrate the many successes in the field, will also be presented at LIME Connection V.
http://www.limenetwork.net.au/content/lime-connection-v

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Conference 2013
'Inspiration, Innovation and Education: Quality & Research in Nursing & Midwifery Practice'
Newcastle City Hall
17 - 18 October 2013
Australian Men's Shed Association 5th National Conference:
Ballarat Lodge and Convention Centre, Ballarat, Vic
27 - 29 October 2013

8th Health Services and Policy Research Conference
2 - 4 December, 2013
Wellington, New Zealand

The purpose of the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand is to facilitate communication across researchers, and between researchers and policymakers, to promote education and training in health services research, and to ensure sustainable capacity in health services research in Australia and New Zealand. More information from Jackie Cumming, by email jackie.cumming@vuw.ac.nz.
http://www.hsraanz.org

CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

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 of the Sapere Research Group. 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 the Sapere Research Group.

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

Media Release
15 February 2013
"No farmers - no food": Farmers and mental illness

The vulnerability of male farmers doesn't often make front page news, but it's something that Australians should be aware of. Why should we care? For one thing, as the saying goes: "No farmers - no food". We depend on them for much of what we eat.

Male farmers experience high levels of job-related stress, high rates of suicide and they have low rates of seeking professional help. They are generally stoical and self-sufficient,
sometimes preferring alcohol or drug overuse to seeking out someone to talk to about their emotional problems.

Philippe Roy and his co-authors examine this issue in the latest Australian Journal of Rural Health (AJRH). The authors state that male farmers' mental health disorders, many of which can lead to suicide, need targeted suicide prevention programs.

There are some in our society who won't be eating much of that food produced by our farmers: those with eating disorders. Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any psychological disorder. Those who suffer need specialist management support but rural and regional areas have restricted access to such support because of logistical issues like the distances involved.

Julie McCormack and others present original research about this in their AJRH paper 'A hub and spokes approach to building community capacity for eating disorders in rural Western Australia'. Their study provides evidence that community-based training on eating disorders improves regional capacity to manage local eating disorders.

Many in rural areas experience poorer access to specialist services in education, commerce, communications and health. In his Editorial in the same issue of AJRH, David Perkins examines the differences between metropolitan research and rurally-based research. He outlines the benefits of smaller scale living and explains why the rurally-based researcher could actually be well-placed to address the gap between theory and practice.

These and other articles and research reports are available in the latest edition of The Australian Journal of Rural Health on www.ruralhealth.org.au or on the website of the AJRH's publisher, Wiley-Blackwell: wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/AJR.
The Australian Primary Health Care research Institute is funded through a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. A thousand people are expected at the Conference in the Adelaide Convention Centre, 7-10 April. Over 250 of the delegates will be presenting papers in concurrent sessions on a wide range of topics of current importance to rural health and wellbeing.

Keynote speakers will include Louise Sylvan, CEO of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency, and Mick Reid, reporting on a collaborative inter-state approach to the provision of health services in remote areas.

Robyn Brogan, from north-west Tasmania, will talk about choices for older people in rural and regional areas, and Sue Middleton, COAG Reform Councillor and 2010 RIRDC Rural Woman of the Year, will describe some of the progress in rural areas under the National Healthcare Agreement.

The full conference program is available at http://nrha.org.au/12nrhc/.