Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 8 December 2006

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 8 December 2006
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9TH NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE, 7-10 MARCH 2007, ALBURY NSW
Close of Early Bird Registration is 15 December 2006 (with a special rate for enrolled friends of the National Rural Health Alliance)
Information and registration: http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/
Email: conference@ruralhealth.org.au

THE NRHA: THE 'BEST FRIEND PEOPLE WITH NO ACCESS TO MEDICARE EVER HAD'

Those who sit up late to watch Question Time will know that almost every Dorothy Dixer to the Government on Medicare for ten years has ended with the words "this Government is the best friend that Medicare has ever had”.

And last week the Prime Minister spoke at the Pharmacy Guild Dinner and extolled the (undoubted) virtues of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and guaranteed its future as "a system that means that you don't have to be a wealthy person in order to have the same access to [these] drugs as the next man or next woman.”

Medicare and the PBS are undoubtedly most virtuous and valuable programs. But we must be aware of the impact of the tyranny of distance and scattered populations on such schemes and their supposed universality.

Places too small to have a doctor - and many that are big enough to know better - cannot provide access to Medicare. No doctor: no Medicare. The 'Medicare deficit' is an estimate of the dollar value of services that people in more remote areas miss out on, calculated by comparing the Medicare benefits outlays per capita in rural and remote areas with those paid in urban and metropolitan areas. It is $400-$500 million a year.

Similarly, people who live in towns or settlements with no community pharmacy have no local access to subsidised medicines (section 100 normally notwithstanding). No pharmacy: no PBS.

It would be good to expand the rhetoric to acknowledge the fact that many people are not covered by the munificence of the MBS and PBS. Over 330,000 people live in RRMA 7 (2002) or 179,000 in areas classified as ‘Very Remote’ (in 2004). That’s three to six Wagga Waggas or six to twelve Alice Springs.

Let's never forget our citizens in remote areas.

BE AN EARLY BIRD FOR THE 9th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE
(This statement is available at http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/be%20an%20early%20bird%20for%20the%209th.pdf)

There is one week to go for Early Bird registrations for the 9th National Rural Health Conference. After 15 December the full price goes up from $737 to $935**

The Conference is in Albury, NSW, from 7-10 March 2007. Apart from the Federal Election it will be the year’s most significant public event for issues affecting the health of people in rural, regional and remote Australia. People will hear how rural people and their communities are faring in the face of the widespread drought, and what interventions and support can best help.

There will be 100 concurrent session papers and a special stream on cancer in the bush. Twenty Keynote Speakers will deal with issues such as the health impacts of the extended drought and climate change, changes in health workplaces, health finance and reform issues, and rural aspects of cancer and kidney disease.
The Australian College of Health Service Executives (ACHSE) is holding a pre-conference forum on rural health service management. It encourages the latest developments in Australia's Indigenous health sector to attend.

Development, workforce and organisational issues confronting the sector and how they are being addressed. People interested in the effective transitions for students to being effective members of the rural health workforce.

Windmill", produced in conjunction with beyondblue, will be launched at the conference. The Forum (6-7 March) will help facilitate to come together and discuss important rural and remote health issues from a student perspective. It will focus on mental health and

The National Rural Health Network Forum is an opportunity for 220 health students, members of 19 rural health clubs around Australia, will stay on for the 9th Conference at which she will also speak.

The 5th International Rural Nursing Congress runs from 4-6 March and has the theme Rural & Remote Nursing in a Changing Global Environment. Keynote Speakers include Judith Kulig from Lethbridge, Alberta, a health researcher and leading expert on the health benefits of rural community leadership, problem-solving and cohesiveness. Like many others, Judith will stay on for the 9th Conference at which she will also speak.

Major events in conjunction with 9th Conference

A number of important meetings are being held in Albury in March next year in conjunction with the 9th National Rural Health Conference. Before the Conference there is the prestigious 5th International Rural Nursing Congress, and Australian meetings of the National Rural Health Network of students' clubs, and on emergency medicine, Aboriginal health, rural health service management, rural pharmacy, writing for publication, and the rural and regional ambulance paramedic in Australia. Given sufficient demand, there will also be a course on breast cancer in Indigenous women. After the Conference there is a one-day course on blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections. Registration for these events, and further information about them, is available at the Alliance's 9th Conference website (go to litsa@nrhn.org.au for information on the NRHN's).

OTHER 9th CONFERENCE NEWS

These are challenging times for country communities facing long-term loss of services and now serious shortages of water and the threat of a bad bushfire season. But rural Australians are well known for their resilience and there is also a well developed - if under-resourced - rural and remote health sector. The 9th Conference in Albury will need to accommodate the reality of the current situation but will end up with positive proposals about health and community interventions that work well.

One of the 45 concurrent sessions over the three days is on 'Recruiting health professionals for rural and remote areas'. James Barnes, one of the few international guests on the program, will talk about the global evidence of the efficacy of incentives in recruiting doctors to remote areas. Kerry Taylor's paper will discuss the significance of rural background in recruiting and retaining nurses to rural and remote areas. The third presentation in the session will see Ben Harris describing the Optometrists Association of Victoria's efforts to promote country practice to students. The final paper in the session will be from Judi Walker who will outline the impact of the supply of dentists on public dental services in rural Tasmania.

John Menadue will present a keynote address on prospects for the reform of Australia's health system. He is a former head of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and CEO of Qantas. Since leaving the public service, Mr Menadue has undertaken reviews of rural health in New South Wales and South Australia. In his current capacity as Chair of New Matilda, an independent online political newsletter, John Menadue is a leading proponent of health reform. New Matilda has recently published a Health Policy for Australia: reclaiming universal health care.

There also be sessions on Indigenous child and maternal health, the Royal Flying Doctor Service in action, and an extraordinary verbatim play, Embers, through which fire-ravaged Victorian communities shared their stories.

There will be a special workshop on kidney disease led by Alan Cass of the George Institute for International health.

Earlybird registration closes on 15 December. You can register on the website through www.ruralhealth.org.au where you will also find the full program.

The Albury conference will also feature the 2007 Libby Harricks Memorial Oration by Rick Osborn, on Hearing and Communication - A Primary Concern in Aged Care. The Oration is sponsored by the Deafness Forum of Australia.

Albury is also welcoming the 5th International Rural Nursing Congress, as well as eight pre-Conference day events on Wednesday 7 March.

Sponsors of the 9th Conference include the Australian Department of Health and Ageing, the NSW Department of Health, the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, the National Health and Medical Research Council, and the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation.

Registration includes access to all sessions, posters, the Conference Dinner and Exhibition, and a copy of the post-Conference CD ROM.

All Conference Early Birds can get their worm by going to www.ruralhealth.org.au and following to ‘9th National Rural Health Conference’. You can also register there for the pre-Conference events.

Travel and accommodation can be handled for you by Travel Makers through http://www.travelmakers.com.au or email to travmake@travelmakers.com.au

Further information: conference@ruralhealth.org.au

** There are special Early Bird rates for members of friends of the Alliance and speakers, and special rates for students and day registration.

OTHER 9th CONFERENCE NEWS

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NACCHO, AIDA and the NRHA are planning a half-day focus on the Aboriginal health sector, dealing with some of the clinical, community development, workforce and organisational issues confronting the sector and how they are being addressed. People interested in the latest developments in Australia's Indigenous health sector are encouraged to attend.

The Australian College of Health Service Executives (ACHSE) is holding a pre-conference forum on rural health service management. It will work through a range of topical issues facing health service managers in rural settings, and provide a great opportunity to meet and
network with rural and remote health service managers from across Australia. Presentations will look at current health management best practice and innovative initiatives touching on key challenges, management from the perspective of Aboriginal communities and management trainees, and much more.

The RDAA/ACRRM Symposium (7 March) will be on emergency medicine in rural Australia. Key presentations will lead into facilitated group work from which the outcomes of the day are drawn. Delegates will thus have an opportunity to contribute to real innovation and progress in support of quality emergency care for rural Australia. Delegates from all health professions, federal, state and local government, rural organisations, consumer groups, health service administrations and rural communities are needed to ensure that the outcomes are truly representative of the rural constituency. The outcomes of the Symposium will be published and provided to all participants for use in their own work.

Given sufficient demand, the National Breast Cancer Centre will run a half-day workshop for health professionals on breast cancer in Indigenous women. It would be of value to health professionals working with Indigenous women, including Indigenous health workers, GPs, rural and remote area nurses, and allied health professionals, as well as others with an interest in supporting members of Indigenous communities affected by breast cancer. Potential participants are asked to tick the box on the pre-Conference event portion of the Conference website.

The Rural Pharmacy Workforce Program will host the 2nd Rural Pharmacist Forum on 7 March. It will consist of presentations on the 4th Agreement Programs, experiences of a rural undergraduate scholarship holder, collaborative health care, and succession planning, S100, profile of a remote pharmacist, and pharmacist academics at University Departments of Rural Health.

'Innovations in rural and regional paramedic roles' is a workshop (7 March) sponsored by Charles Sturt University's Institute of Land, Water and Society. A consortium of Australian Universities has completed commissioned research on the Rural and Regional Ambulance Paramedic in Australia. The research has resulted in a description of a rural expanded scope of practice paramedic. The research was funded nationally by the Council of Ambulance Authorities and conducted in four States. The workshop will be of interest to all health professionals and community members involved with rural expanded scope of practice models in Australia.

The Writing for Publication Workshop (7 March) is being run by the NRHA and the AJRH. It will assist authors seeking publication in refereed journals. Key sessions will be conducted by those associated with the Australian Journal of Rural Health, including experienced writers, editors and publishers.

After the 9th Conference (11 March) there will be a one-day course from the Australian Society for HIV Medicine on 'Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections'. This course will provide an overview of the epidemiology, testing principles, pathogenesis, natural history and treatment of HIV, hepatitis B and C infection and common Sexually Transmissible Infections.

Registration for all of these events and for the 9th Conference itself, and further information about all of them, is available at the Alliance's 9th Conference website.

http://9thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/program/?IntCatId=4

THE HEALTH OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AUSTRALIANS

The state of Indigenous health in Australia remains unacceptably poor. Indigenous males and females die at almost three times the rate of non-Indigenous males and females, according to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data. Indigenous Australians have higher rates of mortality from all major causes of death, with Indigenous males and females dying of endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (including diabetes) at around seven and 11 times, respectively, the rates for non-Indigenous males and females.


From: Sera, Juliet
Subject: Festivals Funding

Festivals Australia Regional Residencies provides assistance to regional and remote communities that wish to 'tell their stories and the stories of their communities', at a local festival or major community celebration. Funding is available to engage an artist in residence to work with community participants to help them develop an arts project on a local or regional theme and present it publicly at the festival or celebration.

If you require further information, please call Lois Wishart Lindsay on 02 6271 1922, program officers Jane Fleming or Juliet Sera on 02 6271 1661 or 02 6721 1931, or email festivals.australia@dcita.gov.au or the website at http://www.dcitा.gov.au/festivals_residencies

Manuscript submissions to The Australian Journal of Rural Health can now be made online through Manuscript Central. Easy and fast submission process; track the progress of your article at any time; safe and secure site. Simply log on to http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh to submit your manuscript today and share the wealth of your knowledge. Full author instructions and guidelines can be found at the AJRH homepage - http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/ajr

The December 2006 issue of the journal is available online now at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/toc/ajr. Articles include:

* Broken Hill experience: A comparison to the United States' Area Health Education Centers' national network role and responsibilities in rural health
* Relationships between the health care sector and the media Daryl Pedler
* Value adding through regional coordination of rural placements for all health disciplines: The Broken Hill experience
* Farm-related injury event, social consequences and injury reporting in the Land Lantbruk newspaper in Sweden: A retrospective study of farm-related injury reporting during 2000–2005
* Total joint replacement surgery in a rural centre
Suturing as an advanced skill for Registered Nurses in the emergency department

Patient outcomes following an intervention involving community pharmacists in the management of depression

Aeromedical evacuations from an east Arnhem Land community 2003–2005: The impact on a primary health care centre

Managing patients at risk of deterioration in rural hospitals: A qualitative study

A technically simple method for staining of acid-fast bacilli in cytology smears: An evaluation

Short Report

Letters to the Editor

Book Review

Grazings

HOSPITALISED INJURY OF AUSTRALIA’S ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE 2000-02

This AIHW report is a technical report on Australian hospital separations due to injury and poisoning for 2000-01 and 2001-02, focussing on cases identified as being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons. The report focuses on a region consisting of grouped jurisdictions of better quality of Indigenous ascertainment in hospital separations data (SA, WA, NT, Qld). Injury hospital admissions have been examined to determine relationships with remoteness of place of usual residence and types of external cause of injury, and age and sex. The report is available at http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/pubs/reports/2006/injcat94.php

Join friends of the Alliance in 2006. By joining friends you will receive the updated CD ‘Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2005’, a 2006 friends certificate, regular issues of PARTYline newsletter, and be eligible for a discounted registration at the 9th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Albury in March 2007. Membership of friends would also give you the opportunity to be involved more closely with the Alliance’s information dissemination and policy work. You will become part of a group of people who contribute to and support the work of the National Rural Health Alliance.

RURAL AUSTRALIA MEDICAL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (RAMUS) - APPLICATIONS OPEN

The 2007 RAMUS Application Round was advertised nationally on Saturday 11 November 2006. Applications close 5pm, Monday 22 January 2007.

The 2007 RAMUS Guidelines are now available on the RAMUS Scholarship page (http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/scholarships/?IntContId=15&IntCatId=7). The Guidelines include explanatory information on each question to assist applicants in completing the Application Form.

Applicants are encouraged to apply online and the online application form is now available from the RAMUS Scholarship page.

If you require further information, please contact the RAMUS Staff on 1800 460 440 (free call). If you are not able to apply online, download the Application Form, complete it in hardcopy and send to: RAMUS NRHA, PO Box 280, Deakin West, ACT, 2600.

PARTYline Newsletter


In This Issue
* climate change
* literacy for life
* hospital design for remote areas
* dental deficiencies on the political agenda
* patients pick up costs of maternity services
* special issues for rural carers
* opportunities to volunteer
* water safety
* the challenge of health funding
* special issues for rural carers
* new qualifications for Aboriginal Health Care Workers
* what will health teams look like in 2020?
* video conference training for health professionals
* telelink: making rural connections
* check out the views at the 9th Conference
* photographic celebration of fitness

PARTYline readily accepts contributions from readers - articles (up to 500 words) and photographs can be sent to partyline@ruralhealth.org.au

RDAA CALLS FOR RURAL HEALTH SERVICE OBLIGATION

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) calls on the Australian government to put in place a Rural Service Obligation in relation to rural health services and urges that this obligation be the centrepiece of the next Australian Health Care Agreements with the State and Territory governments. This proposal is the centrepiece of the RDAA’s Budget Submission, available at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Budget%20submission%202007-08%20final.pdf
LIFELINE'S JUST ASK - 1 300 13 11 14

Your Rural Mental Health Information Service

Lifeline's Just ask is a rural mental health information service. Information provided includes: referral to services and web sites, printed material and a range of self help resources. The self-help resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health in a range of areas. For information and copies of resources call or visit http://www.justask.org.au and further information is available at national@lifeline.org.au and http://www.lifeline.org.au

ALGA STATE OF THE REGIONS REPORT

In this State of the Regions report, the Australian Local Government Association looks more closely at the land boom of 1996-2005, and see some of the downside of it. However delighted the recipients have been with their capital gains, such windfalls do not come without cost. Information on the report is at http://www.alga.asn.au/sor/2006/

BUSH CRISIS LINE - 1800 805 391

Bush Crisis Line is a twenty-four hour confidential telephone support and debriefing service for multi-disciplinary remote and rural health practitioners and their families. 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.bushcrisisline.org.au

FULL TEXT OF OPEN LETTER ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH

(Available at http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/health/)

Dear Prime Minister, State Premiers and Territory Chief Ministers, parliamentarians and Australian public,

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have not shared in the health gains enjoyed by other Australians in the last 100 years. It is a national scandal that Indigenous Australians live 17 years less than other Australians. Indigenous Australians continue to needlessly suffer and die early, not from a lack of solutions or government commitments, but from a lack of political will and action.

We call on all Australian Governments to commit to a plan of action to achieve health equality for Indigenous peoples within twenty-five years. This commitment must receive bipartisan support from federal, state and territory parliaments as well as all sections of Australian society.

Indigenous Australians die from preventable diseases such as rheumatic heart disease, eradicated among the rest of the Australian population and they have lower access to primary health care and health infrastructure that the rest of Australia takes for granted. This is not acceptable. We need to intensify our efforts and treat the Indigenous health crisis as a national priority.

There are already national commitments and policies in place to address Indigenous health inequality – what is missing are appropriately funded programs that target the most vulnerable. There are many stories of Indigenous success and high achievement that exist, which we can celebrate and learn from.

The signatories to this letter are committed to working in close and active collaboration with Indigenous peoples, communities and governments to achieve health equality within a generation. We commit ourselves to being engaged in identifying necessary actions and finding solutions.

At minimum, achieving health equality will require:
• measures to ensure equal access for Indigenous peoples to primary health care and health infrastructure
• increased support for developing the Indigenous health workforce
• a commitment to support and nurture Indigenous community controlled health services
• a focus on improving the accessibility of mainstream health services for Indigenous peoples
• an urgent focus on early childhood development, maternal health, chronic illness and diseases
• supporting the building blocks of good health, such as awareness and availability of nutrition, physical activity, fresh food, healthy lifestyles, adequate housing and the other social determinants of health.

It is inconceivable that a country as wealthy as Australia cannot solve a health crisis affecting less than 3% of its population.

Rapid improvements can be achieved in the health of Indigenous peoples by comprehensive, targeted and well resourced government action, through partnership with Indigenous peoples.

We call on the support of the people of Australia to help stop this needless suffering.

Yours respectfully,

RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB

(from Google Alert at http://www.googlealert.com/)

CRHSSD - Southern Illinois University Carbondale

The Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development (CRHSSD) at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) conducts research, needs assessments, ... http://www.siu.edu/~crhssd/
German fan club raises RFDS funds
A German-based fan club of the 1980s TV series, The Flying Doctors, have raised $25,000 for the real Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). (04/12/2006)
http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/2006/s1803564.htm

5th International Rural Nursing Congress - Registration Open
4 - 6 March 2007
Albury, New South Wales
This pre-conference meeting will be run in conjunction with the National Rural Health Alliance and the 9th National Rural Health Conference. Registration and further information for this event can be found on the 5th International Rural Nursing Congress page (http://9thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/contacts/?IntContId=69&IntCatId=4) on the 9th National Rural Health Conference website.

From: Relate Human Services
Subject: ACCFPP Conference 2007 - Call for Papers
You are invited to attend the second national conference for the Australian College for Child and Family Protection Practitioners in Melbourne - 19 to 21 May 2007 at the Victoria Hotel, Little Collins Street.

The conference theme "Borders and Bridges" reflects the broad contexts of Australian child and family practice. Diverse state data collection systems and differences in risk and safety assessment supply the foundation of a lack of systematic planning. Workforce roles are similar but skills and qualifications are not truly comparable. Different levels of non-government and government services across the three tiers of government add to the complexity. The ACCFPP aims to build bridges between agencies and professions to minimise the impacts of poverty and mental illness on Australian families and children.

The Conference secretariat is based at the Mackay Offices of Relate Human Services, PO Box 1401, Mackay 4740, Phone 07-49575400 Fax 07-49575488 Email: accfpp@bigpond.net.au
http://www.relatehumanservices.com.au

On behalf of the organising committee we invite you to submit an abstract for evaluation for presentation at the Conference. Abstracts are due by December 31, 2006. Authors are invited to submit abstracts for oral papers, workshops and posters. The 250 word abstract should outline the aims and content of the presentation and must be submitted electronically. You must also identify your preferred presentation process but may be asked to consider an alternative format by the programme committee.

Early bird Registration closes 1 March, 2007

From: Kelli Dopson
Subject: 18th Annual RDAQ Conference: Shifting Sands, Changing Tides: the next generation
18th Annual RDAQ Conference: Shifting Sands, Changing Tides: the next generation
7-10 June 2007
Rydges Capricorn Resort, Yeppoon

Join us on the Capricorn Coast for the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland Conference to develop your skills and have your say on the future of rural health. Topics include:
Workforce solutions
Maternity services
Medico-political forum
Indigenous women's health
Mental health
Barriers facing IMGs
Cardiology
Toxicology
Musculoskeletal medicine
Acute behavioural emergencies
And much much more

REGISTER NOW for discounted rates!
For program and registration details visit http://www.rdaq.com.au/conference or call 07 3105 7800

Kelli Dopson
Event Manager | RDAQ Conference 2007
Tel: 07 3105 7800 | Fax: 07 3105 7801
kdopson@healthworkforce.com.au
http://www.rdaq.com.au
GPO Box 2523, Brisbane, Qld 4001

From: Michael Blair
Subject: Australian College of Mental Health Nurses 33rd Annual International Conference
The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses is to hold its 33rd Annual Conference in Cairns in 2007. The theme for the conference, "Mental Health Nurses: Making Waves", not only illustrates the tropical location of the 2007 conference, it is also intended to reflect the idea that historically derived factors influencing development in Mental Health Nursing, reach out and influence others with related concerns.

Waves convey ideas of movement and change. History evolves as events change. Its influence on the future changes with developments that are based on the lessons learnt and experienced. As a wave rolls through, its predecessor is completely changed and yet waves are comprised of those that have come before. Our theme challenges presenters to address related topics. We know that mental health issues will remain important to communities and individuals in the years and decades to come. Mental health nursing is challenged to make waves and to be a key player in this expanding sphere.

The ACMHN Inc., through its national Conferences, local seminars, educational functions, scholarships and awards, has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with key sponsors. We hope that existing sponsors will take this opportunity to continue a mutually rewarding relationship, and that new groups will be inspired to join us.

The Web site URL for persons to express an interest in attending or sponsoring the conference is http://www.astmanagement.com.au/anzmhc7/

All those persons that express an interest in attending via the web site will go into the draw for a free registration to the conference.

The conference will be held at the International Hotel in Cairns from the 8th to the 12th of October 2007.

Submission of Abstracts are called for and they may be submitted electronically via the Web site. You are invited to submit abstracts addressing topics including, but not limited to:

* Collaborations between sectors and service providers; academics and clinicians; consumers, carers and mental health professionals
* Innovations in mental health education
* Nurse-led practices and programs
* Rural, regional and remote mental health issues and service delivery
* Indigenous mental health
* Culturally relevant programs and practices
* Practice implications and recommendations from mental health research
* Specific mental health issues impacting on families, consumers, and carers across the lifespan.

For further information contact:
Mick Blair
Co-convenor
ACMHN Inc. 33rd International Conference 2007

From: Nicky Reavell
Subject: 9th Australian Palliative Care Conference - Call for Abstracts

Partners Across the Lifespan

Palliative Care Victoria in conjunction with Palliative Care Australia is hosting the 9th Australian Palliative Care Conference. It will take place at the Melbourne Convention Centre, Victoria Australia from Tuesday 28 to Friday 31 August 2007.

Abstracts are now being called for 20 minute oral presentations, 45 minute workshops, and/ or poster presentations which incorporates the notion of the conference theme ‘Partners Across the Lifespan’.

All abstracts will be considered, however we encourage you to submit abstracts which address the conference theme and its sub-themes.

An online submission is now open at the conference website for 'Call for Abstracts'

The conference website is www.iceaustralia.com/apcc2007

Palliative Care Australia
PO Box 24
Deakin West ACT 2600
Ph: +61 2 6232 4433
Fax: +61 2 6232 4434
http://www.pallcare.org.au

From: Mcalpin, Susan
Subject: International Rural Network World Rural Forum

The International Rural Network World Rural Forum, India, Late Jan-Early Feb 2008: Innovation for Sustainable Local Development.

The main focus of the Forum will be on innovation in education, health, resource management, governance, and sustainable development to improve the quality of life of rural people and reduce rural poverty and social exclusion.

The forum will be based in the beautiful rural town of Udaipur, Rajasthan, which is also the home of IRN Board Member Lakshmi Murthy.

The Forum will involve five days, with at least one day (or equivalent) in local field visits to see the relevant work of NGOs etc. There are likely to be optional additional visits after the Forum either to the famous Institute of Rural Management in Anand, Gujarat and/or to the
equally famous Birla Institute of Technology in Pilani, Rajasthan.

The date of the conference will be around the end of January or beginning of February 2008. If you are interested, please check out our website at http://www.International-Rural-Network.org and email Nicola.swan@btinternet.com to register your interest in keeping informed as soon as possible.

IRN Aims
Poverty and disadvantage is a common feature of rural areas and people across the world. This is explicitly recognised in the UN Millennium Development Goals. By providing a global forum for academics, practitioners, NGOs and policy makers concerned with sustainable rural development, education and health, the IRN aims to stimulate exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas, and create regional and global support networks. In this way it helps to develop a storehouse of knowledge and expertise on rural concerns, and to raise the profile and policy impacts of rural people, their NGOs and other organisations aiming for local empowerment, engagement, and supporting activities including policies.

CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. 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).

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 view of Jim Groves or any organisation he is associated with. Jim Groves can be contacted at grovesc@winshop.com.au.

This issue is going to 2,544 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.