NRHA eforum 27 July 2007

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CONSIDERING THE WELFARE OF REFUGEES IN RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA

The health of refugees who settle in rural and remote Australia is the theme of a public seminar to be held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 7 August 2007. Ms Constance Okot and Ms Susan Moi, who are themselves refugees from Africa, will speak in a panel about their own experiences in the re-settlement process. The full text of the NRHA statement is at http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/final%20media%20release%20refugee%20seminar%20260707.pdf and is reprinted below.

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND RURAL HEALTH

A one day seminar on the challenge of climate change for health in rural and regional Victoria. What will the impact of climate change be on the well-being of people in rural and regional Victoria? How should this be affecting future policy and research agendas? These questions will be addressed by experts from universities, government and community organisations in this one day seminar to be opened by the Honourable Bronwyn Pike, Minister for Health. Wednesday August 22 8:30am-5:00pm Graduate House The University of Melbourne Presented by the Climate Adaptation Science and Policy Initiative (CASPI) and the Menzies Foundation. To register go to http://www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au or call 8344 4708.

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9th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE - PROCEEDINGS OUT NOW!

7 - 10 March 2007, Albury, New South Wales

Those unable to attend the 9th National Rural Health Conference in Albury (7-10 March 2007) should take heart. The National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) has
comprehensively updated its website by adding post-Conference information to keep you informed about the state of health in Australia's rural and remote areas.

For instance a Conference Communique highlights the two burning issues that remain even after 17 years of fruitful discussion - the lower rate of Indigenous life expectancy and the insufficient focus within national research programs on rural and remote health and wellbeing.

The NRHA invites you to download the Communique at a keystroke by visiting http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/conferences/?IntCatId=9 and clicking on the Visit the Conference hotlink.

The revised website also contains a downloadable copy of the 18 priority recommendations covering matters such as Indigenous health, arts-in-health, the health workforce and research to help rural communities cope with the health and social effects of the drought.

A full set of 250 Conference recommendations is also available. They provide a snapshot of current thinking on rural and remote health issues identified by delegates in March 2007 under the theme Standing up for Rural Health: Learning from the past - Action for the future.

But wait there's more...

The new-look site includes colour headshots of each of the 20 keynote speakers, including transcripts of what they said and audio accounts that allow you to better gauge how each one was delivered.

The quality lineup includes the keynote address of Federal Health Minister, Tony Abbott, as well as Senator Kate Lundy, the Shadow Minister for Health Promotion. Other guest speakers included Rhonda Galbally, Steve Clark, Philip Davies and John Menadue, among others.

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 August 2007 issue of the journal is available online now at http://www.blackwellsynergy.com/links/toc/ajr. Articles include:
* Analysis to synergy: Why coordination of rural initiatives at metropolitan universities is important and timely
* Harnessing a University to address rural health workforce shortages in Australia
* Acute rheumatic fever: Adherence to secondary prophylaxis and follow up of Indigenous patients in the Katherine region of the Northern Territory
* Evidence-based use of medications in patients with coronary artery disease in a
rural Australian community
* Rural adolescents experiencing an urban transition
* Detecting depression in the aged: Is there concordance between screening tools and the perceptions of nursing home staff and residents? A pilot study in a rural aged care facility
* Rural public dental practice in Australia: Perspectives of Tasmanian government-employed dentists
* 'I don't want to be in that big city; this is my country here': Research findings on Aboriginal peoples' preference to die at home
* Ocular health status of rural dwellers in south-western Nigeria
* Short Reports
* Grazings
* From the Journal Associates

Join friends of the Alliance in 2007. By joining friends you will receive the updated CD 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2007', a 2007 friends certificate, and regular issues of PARTYline newsletter. 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.

PARTYline Newsletter

The Alliance's newsletter, PARTYline, is a means of exchanging information between those with an interest in rural health, including friends of the Alliance, health consumers, health professionals, students and policy makers. Contributors report on their personal rural experiences, on programs with which they have been involved, provide information on new initiatives and resources, and it is a vehicle for opinions on rural health issues and events.

PARTYline has a print circulation around Australia of 13,000 and is also available on-line below. PARTYline readily accepts contributions from readers - articles (up to 500 words) and photographs can be sent to partyline@ruralhealth.org.au

Partyline Edition 30 includes:
* highlights from the 9th National Rural Health Conference, including reviews of keynote addresses, in-depth discussion of health reform, the role of the arts in achieving good health, impressions from delegates, student voices, policy impact of recommendations, rural health winners, and pictorial highlights
* equal health within a generation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
* responses to Budget 2007-08
* writing for publication
* telling your rural health story
* rural health news
* resources
* dates for your calendar.
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

NEW ARTICLES IN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

'University rural health clubs: nurturing the future Australian rural workforce'
Current health professional students are our future workforce. How can we encourage them to practice in rural and remote communities? This article provides a student perspective on the role of rural health clubs at universities in Australia.

'Decision criteria in health professionals choosing a rural practice setting: development of the Careers in Rural Health Tracking Survey (CIRHTS)'
Are you interested in the workforce outcomes of rural health professional education? This new data collection instrument from Australia will provide interesting new information.

'Gender and personal breastfeeding experience of rural GP registrars in Australia - a qualitative study of their effect on breastfeeding attitudes and knowledge'
The promotion of breastfeeding is a vital area for health professionals who work with new mothers - but what is our knowledge level? For instance, what do trainee GPs know about breastfeeding? This small qualitative study of GP-trainee perceptions provides some insight.

'Our hope'
Australian readers will be aware of recent actions by the Commonwealth Government in remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. This letter to the editor by Juli Coffin, Senior Lecturer in Aboriginal Health in Western Australia, is a response to the sudden and sweeping government policy intervention. Rural and Remote Health encourages all readers with personal or professional experience of the complex issues facing the people who live in and serve remote Aboriginal communities to submit letters. Our intention is to provide a forum to share viewpoints from those who are affected by these latest and previous interventions.

'Our Hope Also'
Two more letters have just been posted on the recent Australian government response to abuse in Aboriginal communities. Written by health care providers and a researcher, respectively, with considerable experience in working respectfully and effectively with Aboriginal people, both letters call for a well-resourced but thoughtful response using proven solutions and, to quote from one letter 'the collective wisdom within the community.' Rural and Remote Health urges others to share their views and experience on this issue.


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

RACGP: INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES DESERVE A SUSTAINABLE HEALTH WORKFORCE

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has today welcomed the initiative shown by general practitioners and other health workers who have put up their hand to make a difference in Indigenous health.

"This groundswell of Australians who are keen to act is an important first step. However, to make a real, positive and ongoing difference to the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities we need a sustainable, committed and culturally aware workforce," said Dr Vasantha Preetham, RACGP President.


RURAL DOCTORS ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR MORE SUPPORT FOR RURAL LOCUMS

Rural locums from all over Australia met in Sydney on July 16th as part of a Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) Locum special interest group to discuss the particular needs and issues around provision of locum services in rural Australia.

The statement will be available on the RDAA website at http://www.rdaa.com.au/

RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC
(From ABC Rural Newsletter, http://www.abc.net.au/rural/default.htm and Health
Australia's estimated resident population (ERP) at June 2006 was 20.7 million people. This represents an increase of 1.3 million people (or 6.6%) since June 2001, with an average annual growth rate of 1.3%.

At 30 June 2006, capital city Statistical Divisions (SDs) were home to over 13.2 million people, making up almost two-thirds (64%) of Australia's population, the same proportion as in June 2001 and June 1996.

The combined population of the state balances (those areas outside capital city SDs) increased by 472,700 people during the five years to June 2006 to reach 7.53 million, making up 36% of Australia's population at June 2006.

Inland regional centres continued to gain population in the five years to June 2006.

As the population of a locality ages and households move through the life cycle, well-established areas can decline in population. For example, Campbelltown (C), in the Sydney SD, decreased by 3,000 people between June 2001 and June 2006. Several other LGAs with large population declines in the five years to June 2006 were located within the Sydney SD, including Fairfield (C), Ku-ring-gai (A), and Canterbury (C). Large population declines were also recorded outside capital city SDs between June 2001 and June 2006, especially in areas that have been affected by drought, for example the New South Wales LGAs of Moree Plains (A) and Walgett (A) declined by 1,700 and 1,100 people respectively.


The Australian Health Care Reform Alliance is holding a National Health Reform Summit ‘Reform in the Australian Health Sector’ on 30-31 July 2007 in Canberra. Program and online registration are available at http://www.healthreform.org.au/
From: Jane Howorth - ECC Information Desk  
Subject: Update on Rural Critical Care Conference  

The 2007 Rural Critical Care Conference is taking place in Ballina NSW, 24 - 25 August. Further info is available on the conference website http://www.ruralcriticalcare.asn.au

From: Joy Burch  

Every two years Mount Isa hosts a conference aimed at bringing together people with an interest in all aspects of health in remote Australia. Previous events in 2003 and 2005 were immensely successful with attendees finding the presentations 'focused and relevant' and many going on to indicate their willingness to attend again.

The purpose of this year's event is to provide a forum for information exchange and debate about issues relevant to remote health with a particular focus on the following themes:
* Clinical practice in remote areas;
* Population Health including Indigenous health;
* Workforce supply, education and training;
* Research outcomes such as innovation in health service delivery.

This conference is convened by the Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health in collaboration with a range of stakeholders including, Queensland Health, the Royal Flying Doctors Service, James Cook University, Oxfam, North and West Queensland Primary Health Care and the Mount Isa City Council. Through involvement of such a wide range of remote health organisations the multidisciplinary nature of this conference is assured.

Once again the Mount Isa Remote Health Conference promises to be a fantastic event and, through its small size and limited registrations, represents a great opportunity to establish networks with other remote health professionals.

Details are available at http://micrrh.jcu.edu.au/conferences-workshops/remotely-interested/

Joy Burch  
Executive Officer
From: Nicky Reavell  
Subject: 9th Australian Palliative Care Conference

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. The conference website is http://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

11th Annual Chronic Diseases Network Conference Learning for Living”  
30th & 31st August 2007, Darwin

The 11th Annual Chronic Diseases Network Conference is being held in Darwin at the Holiday Inn Esplanade on 30th & 31st August 2007.

The CDN conferences have a loyal following of Aboriginal Health Workers, Remote Area Nurses, District Medical Officers, GP's, Administrators, Researchers and Policy Makers. We anticipate between 250-300 delegates from across the NT and interstate. Information from:  
Christine Connors The Best Conference & Events Company  
Rachael McGuin GPO Box 2541  
Marie Hodsdon Phone: 08 8981 1875  
Sharon Manhire Fax: 08 8941 2815  
Joanne Blayney Email: info@thebestevents.com.au

ARRWAG INDIGENOUS HEALTH WORKFORCE FORUM ON 31 AUGUST 2007
Australian Rural and Remote Workforce Agencies Group
2007 National Policy Forum on Indigenous Health Workforce Issues
FREMANTLE, WA, 31 AUGUST 2007

Contact:
Ph: 03 9662 2625
Fax: 03 9662 4830
Email: forum@arrwag.com.au
http://www.arrwag.com.au

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3rd Annual Australian Nurse Practitioner Association Conference
21-22 September 2007
Sheraton Hotel, Perth, WA
For more information, visit http://www.dcconferences.com.au/anpa07

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THE LIME CONNECTION II "CULTURES ACROSS THE INDIGENOUS
HEALTH SPECTRUM: ACHIEVING BETTER OUTCOMES"

The Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans) and the
Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) announces The LIME Connection
II conference, held in Sydney from Sunday 23rd to Tuesday 25th September, 2007.

Leaders in the field of Indigenous medical education and practice will present their
experiences and share innovative approaches through a mix of keynote addresses, oral
and poster presentations, group discussions and a public lecture. Topics will include:
* reviewing medical schools' progress towards implementing the curriculum
  framework and Indigenous student initiatives
* learning and sharing with other health science disciplines, postgraduate medical
  education bodies, medical colleges and divisions
* defining cultural safety in Australian health and medical education
* looking toward the future to examine what's possible and where we go from here

For further information, please visit the LIME Connection II web site at
http://www.limenetwork.net.au/conference/welcome

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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/anzcmhc7/

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.

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

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

Help fight poverty and hardship in Australia and overseas. Organise an activity during the Week - 14-20 October 2007 - big or small, local or national. FOR INFO & IDEAS, see http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au OR CONTACT US AT 1300 797 290; or apw@antipovertyweek.org.au

Climate Change and Human Health Conference
Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 October 2007
Park Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne, Australia
http://www.healthclimate2007.com
From: Scott Wagner  
Subject: NSW Rural Allied Health Conference 2007, Dubbo, October 18-19

Details are at http://www.nswrahc.com.

ACRRM AGM and Conference - Friday 26 October to Sunday 28 October

ACRRM will hold its AGM in NSW on the weekend of 26-28 October 2007. A program of educational activities will also be held for practitioners, registrars and students. Information at http://www.acrrm.org.au/

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, SCHOOL OF RURAL HEALTH, 2007 RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The University of Melbourne, School of Rural Health, invites you to participate in the 3rd Annual Shepparton Research Conference on Tuesday 27th November 2007 from 9am to 5pm.

The research conference, entitled: "Moving Forward: Rural Research & Knowledge Transfer" is intended for individuals and organisations with an interest in rural health, including general practice, primary health care, integrated care and population health, research and evaluation. Registrations open 2 July 2007. Delegates can register online by accessing the School of Rural health website http://www.ruralhealth.unimelb.edu.au and clicking on the conference link after that date. A hardcopy of the registration pack can be obtained by emailing the Conference Secretariat.

The School of Rural Health welcomes your participation with papers, posters and other presentations at this forthcoming conference. The call for Abstracts is now open and must be submitted via email to the Conference Secretariat by close of business Monday 3rd September, 2007. Please circulate to colleagues interested in research.

Pauline Venn Conference Secretariat pvenn@unimelb.edu.au Ph: 03 5823 4532

From: Jane Howorth - ECC Information Desk  
Subject: NSW Rural Mental Health Conference

This year's NSW Rural Mental Health Conference is taking place in Batemans Bay, 3 - 5 December 2007, hosted by the Greater Southern Area Health Service. Further information on the conference website: http://www.rmhcconference.com or by contacting info@eastcoastconferences.com.au, tel 02 6650 9800.
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.

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.

From: Emma Grayson
Subject: 10th International Paediatric and Child Health Nursing Conference

The 10th International Paediatric and Child Health Nursing Conference is to be held at the Holiday Inn Esplanade and Darwin Entertainment Centre, Northern Territory, from Wednesday, 30 April to Friday, 2 May 2008. The conference is being hosted by the Australian Confederation of Paediatric and Child Health Nurses. The conference is expected to attract between 200 and 400 delegates from across Australia and abroad.

Through the implementation of the theme "Crossing barriers", this conference aims to illustrate that barriers can and must be crossed to improve health outcomes for
children and young people. The conference aims are: to advance paediatric and child health nursing's contribution to health care and facilitate the dissemination of evidence highlighting effective nursing interventions to arise the profile of the benefits of interdisciplinary collaboration to identify future directions for paediatric and child health nursing to provide a forum that stimulates debate and collegiality.

For more information, to register your expression of interest or to download the call for abstracts, please visit the conference website at http://www.ipchnconference.com.au or by contacting the conference secretariat via email at info@ipchnconference.com.au or by telephone +61 7 3858 5503.

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POPULATION HEALTH CONGRESS 2008
A Global World - Practical action for health and Well-being

Come to Brisbane and join in Australia's population health event of the decade. Four organisations are working together to provide a line-up of international and national speakers that promises to be excellent.

The Population health Congress 2008 will be held on July 7-9 in the Brisbane Convention and exhibition Centre. Regular updates on Congress 2008 will be available at http://www.populationhealthcongress.org.au - log on to register your interest.

Enquiries:
Conference Coordinators
PO Box 139
Calwe ll ACT 2905
Ph (02) 6292 9000
congress2008@confco.com.au

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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

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

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NRHA MEDIA RELEASE
Considering the welfare of refugees in rural and remote Australia
26 July 2007

The health of refugees who settle in rural and remote Australia is the theme of a public seminar to be held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 7 August 2007. Ms Constance Okot and Ms Susan Moi, who are themselves refugees from Africa, will speak in a panel about their own experiences in the re-settlement process.

Organised by the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA), the seminar will feature keynote addresses and case studies, including one on the need to provide health and counselling services to refugees and another on the necessity for community support.

In an address that bears comparison to extending health checks for Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory, Dr Mitchell Smith of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Working Party on Refugee Health, will speak on the health of refugee children re-settled in Australia.

Titled "Listening with compassion: responding with respect", the half day seminar will also be addressed by Daniel Boyer of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. He will discuss the settlement of refugees in regional areas and provide information on their numbers, location and health status.

Dr Geraldine Duncan, a general practitioner from Wagga Wagga and trauma counsellor Dr Penny Vine from Albury, both in country NSW, will present case studies on providing health and counselling services to refugees in rural areas.

NRHA Chairperson, Professor John Wakerman, hopes the seminar will inform the public on how Australia is coping with refugee settlement outside of major cities like Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.

Registration at the Telstra Theatre, within the Australian War Memorial complex, will open at 1.15pm on Tuesday, 7 August. Those who wish to register early can do so online at register@ruralhealth.org.au

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