National Rural Health Alliance eforum - 20 April 2012

In this issue:
* Rural opportunities from health reform need better communication and system flexibility
* Managing tensions in professional statutory practice: Living and working in rural and remote communities
* Taking Stock: The Health Hazards of Farming
* Heart Foundation News
* NSW Rural Doctors Network - General Manager
* Research and Data
* Lowitja Institute e-Bulletin
* Hands Across NSW Inc Regional Grants
* AMA plan to bolster the rural medical workforce
* Rural Health in *Australian Doctor*
* NACCHO News
* Sex workers reject STI claims
* RDAA News
* Articles in *Rural and Remote Health*
* What's On
* Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer
* Full text of *Rural opportunities from health reform need better communication and system flexibility*

RURAL OPPORTUNITIES FROM HEALTH REFORM NEED BETTER COMMUNICATION AND SYSTEM FLEXIBILITY

Over 100 people concerned with healthcare services in rural, regional and remote areas came together from around Australia to discuss the implications of national health reform for rural health services and outcomes. They were attending a Policy Think Tank convened in Canberra by the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) and the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA). The full text of the Alliance statement is at [http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr_200412_final.pdf](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr_200412_final.pdf) and is reproduced below.

MANAGING TENSIONS IN PROFESSIONAL STATUTORY PRACTICE: LIVING AND WORKING IN RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES
Invitation to participate in an Interview Research Project

Who is conducting the research?

Griffith University - Professor Lesley Chenoweth and Associate Professor Donna McAuliffe, School of Human Services and Social Work
Associate Professor Barrie O'Connor, Institute of Disability Studies
Dr Paula Jervis-Tracey, School of Education and Professional Studies
Charles Darwin University - Professor Daniela Stehlik, The Northern Institute

The Australian Research Council has provided funding for this research project.

Why is the research being conducted?
* To map the scope and practice requirements of statutory roles across health, justice, education and human services
* To determine the characteristics of the relationships between professionals with statutory responsibilities who live and work in rural communities, and the communities in which they operate
* To explore the strategies different professionals use effectively to negotiate the multiple relationships generated by their work and living situation
* To determine what factors contribute to more collaborative relationships and more effective outcomes of statutory work in rural and remote communities
* To identify the inter-relationships between working in rural/remote environments and being 'managed' from central agencies or departments.

Participants will be asked to participate in an audio-taped interview of approximately 30 - 60 minutes, in person or via a phone interview. The recording will be transcribed and then destroyed. You will be asked to sign a consent form. The researcher will ask questions about your experience of living and working in a rural or remote community.

Registering your interest in an interview
Please contact: Professor Lesley Chenoweth 07 3382 1005 L.Chenoweth@griffith.edu.au or Natalie Clements N.Clements@griffith.edu.au

The basis by which participants will be selected
Professionals who have statutory responsibilities and are currently working in rural or remote communities in Queensland will be asked to participate.

The expected benefits of the research
When professionals have mandatory responsibilities - in child protection, law enforcement or mental health matters), tensions can arise between workers and the community in which they live. The study will explore solutions to the complex medical, legal and social issues that arise for different professional groups in the discharge of their duties. It will increase current knowledge about the nature of their roles and responsibilities in small communities, and about improving professional practice and retention, leading to improved service delivery and outcomes for individuals, families and communities.

Risks to you
Risks associated with participation in this research project are minimal. Attention will be given to protect participant's identities in presentation of the research findings.
Your confidentiality
Once identifiable data has been collected by way of recorded interviews, participant identities will be protected by way of assigning pseudonyms in transcription. The interview recording will be erased immediately after transcription, and transcripts will be stored in a locked filing cabinet within the School of Human Services and Social Work.

Your participation is voluntary
Participation in the Managing tensions in professional statutory practice: Living and working in rural and remote communities project is voluntary. Participants are assured that their decision to participate, or otherwise, in this project will in no way impact upon their relationship with Griffith University. Participants are free to withdraw from the research project at any time.

The ethical conduct of this research
This research project will be conducted in accordance with the National Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Human Research. If potential participants have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of the project they should contact the Manager, Research Ethics, on 3735 5585 or research-ethics@griffith.edu.au.

Feedback to you
A summary of findings will be distributed to all agencies that participated in the research. All presentations of research findings will be made available to participants upon request. Manuscripts and reports can be obtained by contacting:
Professor Lesley Chenoweth 07 3382 1005 L.Chenoweth@griffith.edu.au

Privacy Statement
The conduct of this research involves the collection, access and/or use of your identified personal information. The information collected is confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties without your consent, except to meet government, legal or other regulatory authority requirements. However, your anonymity will at all times be safeguarded. For further information consult the University's Privacy Plan at http://www.griffith.edu.au/about-griffith/plans-publications/griffith-university-privacy-plan or telephone (07) 3735 5585.

TAKING STOCK: THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF FARMING
Taking Stock is a live television panel discussion that explores the various factors contributing to poorer physical and emotional health outcomes in farming communities. The program seeks to raise the awareness amongst the health and medical community about farm accidents, injuries and illnesses, and the general health risks faced by farmers and their families. The program will assist health professionals better assess and detect symptoms and promotes a pro-active stance, emphasising the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach. In addition the program supports the development of effective health promotion, health literacy and prevention programs in farming communities. It showcases the work of organisations such as the Sustainable Farm Families Project to increase awareness of the health status of farming communities.
Tuesday 8th May 2012
Live satellite television broadcast
Viewing Times: 8pm, NSW, ACT, TAS, VIC & QLD; 7.30pm SA & NT; 6.00pm WA
For more information on how to view the program visit the program webpage:

HEART FOUNDATION NEWS

Swap It Don't Stop It - Final Grant Round Now Open!
The final Community Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Grant round is now open. To
download a copy of the guidelines and application form or for details about grant information
Applications close 5pm, 31 May 2012. For further information please contact Lisa Wheatley
on 9382 5935.

Heart Foundation speakers required
The Heart Foundation is looking to establish a national panel of speakers available to support
workshops and presentations focusing on improving adherence in cardiovascular care.
Session range from 30 minutes, one hour or two hours in duration. Full materials and training
provided.
For more information contact Paige Bolton via email paige.bolton@heartfoundation.org.au or
phone 03 9321 1534.

NSW RURAL DOCTORS NETWORK - GENERAL MANAGER

Newcastle CBD location

NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN) is a non government, not for profit organisation which
plays a key role in recruiting and supporting the medical workforce, and implementing health
service initiatives, for country NSW. RDN is a dynamic and friendly organisation.

For this pivotal role we are seeking a strategic thinker who enjoys working with a broad
range of internal and external stakeholders. In this interesting and varied role you will have
oversight of a range of key corporate functions that underpin the smooth management and
performance of the organisation. You will also work closely to support our rural partners.

For the full job description and selection criteria, visit http://www.nswrdn.com.au and click
on 'About Us' then 'Careers with RDN'. All selection criteria must be addressed. Applications
close 5pm on 18 May 2012. Email your application to ggoninan@nswrdn.com.au

For further information or a confidential discussion, please call CEO Dr Ian Cameron on 02
4924 8000.
WILL YOU OPT IN ON 1 JULY? THE RURAL VALUE OF THE eHEALTH RECORD

From 1 July this year we will all be able to register for an eHealth record - should we wish to do so. For details about eHealth record developments visit the E-health section of the Alliance's website - [http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/e-health/?IntContId=14852&IntCatId=45](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/e-health/?IntContId=14852&IntCatId=45)

Both consumers and health professionals in rural and remote areas stand to benefit from implementation of the eHealth record.

The Alliance seeks your help to ensure that people in rural and remote areas know what's happening and have the information they need to choose whether to opt in early and be among the first to benefit. We encourage you and your organisation (eg Shire, clinic, faculty, service club) to contact the National Change and Adoption Partners ([ncapprogramperf@au.pwc.com](mailto:ncapprogramperf@au.pwc.com)) for information about the eHealth record. Or you might like to recommend a local eHealth champion or report on real life stories to help people relate to the benefits of eHealth.

There are more education and training resources to come - including for health professionals and for those who are expected to benefit most from the eHealth record (eg new mothers; seniors; people living with chronic conditions). To subscribe to further targeted information, go to [http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/subscribe](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/subscribe)

Gordon Gregory
Executive Director, NRHA
Phone: 02 6285 4660
Web: [http://www.ruralhealth.org.au](http://www.ruralhealth.org.au)

RURAL HEALTH ON TWITTER!

**National Rural Health Alliance**
'Follow us on Twitter' button now on our home webpage: [http://www.ruralhealth.org.au](http://www.ruralhealth.org.au)

Wonderful send-off for Judith Adams in Kojonup y’day, inc. tributes from family, community, parliamentarians and Royal Aust. Navy

Some other Twitter sites:
ABC Health Online - http://twitter.com/#!/ABCHealthOnline
ABC Open - http://twitter.com/#!/abcopen
ACRRM - http://twitter.com/#!/ACRRM
AgHealthSafety - http://twitter.com/#!/AgHealthSafety
AIHW - http://twitter.com/#!/aihw
Australasian College of Health Service Management - http://twitter.com/#!/ACHSM
Australian Rural Doctor Magazine - http://twitter.com/#!/OzRuralDoc
Consumers Health Forum Australia - http://twitter.com/#!/CHFofAustralia
Country GPs (NZ) - http://twitter.com/#!/CountryGPs
Croakey Blog - http://twitter.com/#!/croakeyblog
Farmer Health - http://twitter.com/#!/FarmerHealth
eHealthAus - http://twitter.com/#!/eHealthAus
HealthInfoNet - http://twitter.com/#!/HealthInfoNet
NHMRC - http://twitter.com/#!/nhmrc
NSW Health - http://twitter.com/#!/NSWHealth
Queensland Health - http://twitter.com/#!/qldhealthnews
Royal Flying Doctor - http://twitter.com/#!/RoyalFlyingDoc
Rural Doctors Association of Australia - http://twitter.com/#!/RuralDoctorsAus
Rural Doctors Association of Queensland - http://twitter.com/#!/RuralDocsQ
Rural Health Education Foundation - http://twitter.com/#!/RHEFAustralia
Rural Health Workforce Australia - http://twitter.com/#!/RuralHealthOz
Rural Mental Health - http://twitter.com/#!/RuralMH
Rural Workforce Agency Victoria - http://twitter.com/#!/RWAVictoria
SuicidePreventionAus - http://twitter.com/#!/SuicidePrevAU
Victoria Department of Health - http://twitter.com/#!/VicGovHealth
WA Health - http://twitter.com/#!/WAHealth
YourHealthGovAu - http://twitter.com/#!/YourHealthGovAu

RESEARCH AND DATA

Evaluation of the NSW Indigenous Diabetic Foot Program for health workers whose primary role is with Aboriginal people in the lower mid north coast
This paper assesses the effectiveness of a new diabetes education program for Indigenous Health Workers. The Indigenous diabetic foot program (IDFP) provides educational programs for both Indigenous Health Workers (IHWs) and Indigenous patients who have diabetes. Components of the program include information on foot complications of diabetes, encouraging self-care and a screening tool for identifying those at high risk of foot complications (DART). This evaluation assessed the effectiveness of the education program for IHWs by measuring the knowledge gained by the IHWs and the integration of the screening tools into clinical practice. Results showed that after the workshop IHW participants had increased their knowledge levels, and that this knowledge was sustained over at least a six month time period. Of particular note, the lowest score in the six month follow-up knowledge questionnaire was higher than the highest score in the pre-workshop
knowledge questionnaire. The study also found that while the participants found the IDFP to be beneficial, the uptake and implementation of the screening program was low (55%).


Gone too soon: a report into youth suicide in the Northern Territory
Young people in the Northern Territory are three and a half times more likely to commit suicide than young people nationally and 75% of all child suicides in the Northern Territory between 2007 and 2011 are by Indigenous youth. To respond to the suicide in the Territory, the committee identified four areas for further action: 1. Building Strong, Healthy and Resilient Communities. 2. Identifying and Helping those at Risk. 3. Helping the bereaved and stopping the contagion. 4. Smarter Service Delivery.


LIME good practice case studies 2012
This publication showcases the varied programs and initiatives being undertaken at medical schools across Australia and New Zealand in relation to Indigenous medical education. It highlights long standing and successful programs together with new, original and innovative programs. The case studies are examples of models of good practice which can provide valuable information for developing programs and strategies in the area of Indigenous medical education.


Residential care for the aged fails in rural areas
A study by Charles Sturt University researchers has found that people often experience social disconnection, loneliness, and desperation when residential aged care is inaccessible to them in their rural communities.


Dental health of Indigenous children in the Northern Territory: progress of the Closing the Gap Child Oral Health Program
This Bulletin presents information on the oral health status of Indigenous children who received dental services under the Northern Territory Closing the Gap Child Oral Health Program. Between August 2007 and December 2011 more than 8,000 children were provided with over 14,000 dental services through the program. About 56% of children who received a dental service were treated for at least one oral health problem. The most commonly treated problem was dental caries (52%). Of the children who received a dental service over a 6 month period between 1 January and 30 June 2011, 82% had a dental caries experience with an average of 4.5 caries per child. Analysis of a sample of children who received more than one dental service showed that about 60% of children who received treatment for dental caries at their first dental service did not require treatment for the same condition at their most recent dental service, highlighting an improvement in their oral health status.


Growth in Australia's mental health workforce
The latest workforce information on the AIHW's Mental Health Services in Australia website (available at http://mhsa.aihw.gov.au/) shows the number of psychiatrists (including
Psychiatrists-in-training) per 100,000 people increased at an average yearly rate of 1.4% between 2005 and 2009. The highest rate of psychiatrists (including psychiatrists-in-training) was in Major cities, while the highest rate of mental health nurses was in Inner regional areas. The AIHW media statement is at http://www.aihw.gov.au/media-release-detail/?id=10737421552

*Partyline*

The next edition of *Partyline* will be out in early April. It will address the need for rural smoking rates to fall, for Budget investment in oral health and aged care, and for improved rural access to rehabilitation services for brain injury. It reviews the gains for rural health that have eventuated since rural Independents have held the balance of power in Federal Parliament and outlines some of the benefits that may be anticipated from the new agency, Rural and Regional Health Australia. *Partyline* 43 celebrates rural health champions both in Australia and overseas and provides information on incentives, schemes and resources for improving rural health. Subscription is free: partyline@ruralhealth.org.au

*LOWITJA INSTITUTE E-BULLETIN*  
(subscribe at http://www.lowitja.org.au/node/add/profile)

16 April 2012
* Vale Uncle Jimmy
* Research at the Lowitja Institute
* Published by the Lowitja Institute
* Job vacancy at the Lowitja Institute
* Congratulations to the Australian Indigenous HealthBulletin
* Consultation on ANPHA's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
* Conferences and Calls for Abstracts
* Events
* Jobs
* Media
* Publications
* Resources and Websites
* Scholarships, Awards, Funding, Grants and Tenders
* Seminars, Courses, Colloquia and Symposia
* Next eBulletin: 30 April 2012

*JOIN friends*

We would like to encourage you to join *friends* of the Alliance. The cost of membership is unchanged: $44 (including GST) for an individual, $165 for an organisation of less than 50
people, and $330 for a large organisation. On joining you will receive a friends membership pack including a certificate, the Rural and Remote Health Papers CD, lapel pin, fact sheets and the latest annual report. The NRHA values the input of friends and finds its advice and contributions invaluable to the work of the Alliance. A membership form can also be found on the friends page of the Alliance website at http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4

To receive the updated DVD Rural and Remote Health Papers (1991-2011) join friends of the Alliance

All members of friends of the Alliance receive a copy of the updated Rural and Remote Health Papers DVD, a valuable resource on rural, regional and remote health. The update includes proceedings of the 11th National Rural Health Conference and has 4,000 documents containing 30,000 pages of information. It is searchable by key words. The DVD includes:
* proceedings of 11 National Rural Health Conferences
* proceedings of the Infront Outback Rural Health Scientific Conferences
* Australian Journal of Rural Health 1992-2010
* Partyline newsletters and other Alliance policy documents and submissions.

HANDS ACROSS NSW INC REGIONAL GRANTS

Hands Across NSW was formed over five years ago in the Shoalhaven to provide assistance to some of the state's worst affected drought areas and during that time, along with other initiatives, we have assisted many families with water cartage, fodder to keep breeding stock alive, and financial aid for Primary and High School students. The organisation's aim is to assist rural communities in NSW affected by drought, flood and other disasters causing hardship, by providing help with dignity.

Due to the ongoing effects of the drought still affecting our rural areas and the more recent floods, Hands Across NSW is currently offering 10 grants (to a maximum value of $5,000 each) to Individuals and Organisations in Rural Communities. Only one grant will be accorded to each town or district, therefore enabling assistance to a minimum of 10 different Rural Communities. Judging will take place after the closing date of 30th June, 2012 and successful applicants will be advised accordingly as soon as possible after that date.

This form is available via hands.across.nsw@gmail.com or from the Bendigo Bank Website supporting our initiative http://www.bendigobank.com.au/public/community_bank/community_sponsorships.asp?community=199

Juan Carlos Alvarez
Chairman

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

April 2012 issue now available. Contents include:
Editorial - Rural health research: What sort of investment is needed?
Original Articles
'Making evidence count': A framework to monitor the impact of health services research
Do clinical pathways enhance access to evidence-based acute myocardial infarction treatment in rural emergency departments?
Potential of pharmacists to help reduce the burden of poorly managed cardiovascular risk
Is personality the missing link in understanding recruitment and retention of rural general practitioners?
Nature or nurture: The effect of undergraduate rural clinical rotations on pre-existent rural career choice likelihood as measured by the SOMERS Index
Treatment via videoconferencing: A pilot study of delivery by clinical psychology trainees
Short Reports
Behavioural activation for the treatment of rural adolescents with depression
Dislocated crystalline lens in an Aboriginal patient
From the Journal Associates
More data needed on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Further information at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/ajr

AMA PLAN TO BOLSTER THE RURAL MEDICAL WORKFORCE

The AMA has released the AMA Position Statement on Regional/Rural Workforce Initiatives 2012, which sets out a practical achievable plan to attract doctors and medical students to live and work in rural and regional Australia. AMA President, Dr Steve Hambleton, said that the AMA has for some time identified medical workforce shortage as a major health issue, particularly in regional and rural Australia.
The full AMA statement is available at http://ama.com.au/node/7692

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.
Theses resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health and are available online at http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice
A limited number of printed tool kits are available on request by emailing infoservice@lifeline.org.au. For more information please visit http://www.lifeline.org.au
If you are in need of 24 hour crisis support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14

**RURAL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIAN DOCTOR**

Fly-in-fly-out forcing doctors out
Western Australia's growing fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) workforce is putting a strain on health services, with sexually transmitted disease, alcohol and drugs, risk-taking behaviour, stress and family breakdowns having major impacts. AMA WA president David Mountain told a federal parliamentary hearing into FIFO practices in Perth on Tuesday that a dearth of healthcare workers - who faced the same isolation and cost-of-living pressures as others in remote mining communities - was compounding the problem. Full article [here](http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice).

What would help solve the rural workforce crisis?
Debate around the alleged use and abuse of IMG doctors to prop up the rural medical workforce has been raging on Australian Doctor's website since a report on the registration and support of IMG doctors was tabled in Parliament in mid-March. Full article [here](http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice).

New doctors should do rural work: poll
Full article [here](http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice).

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

**PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION - REPORT ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES 2012: INDIGENOUS COMPENDIUM**


**NACCHO NEWS**

20 April 2012
Joint Press Release:NACCHO and Pharmacy Guild working together
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 to be an Australian Organ Donor now!

SEX WORKERS REJECT STI CLAIMS
(Extract from 6 Minutes Newsletter)

Sex workers have hit back at claims by doctors that they are partly to blame for a rise in sexually transmitted diseases in regional areas.

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

RDAA NEWS

17 Apr 2012
RDAQ media release -- Country practice needs new blood and new ways

16 Apr 2012
E-health: not just a flick of a switch for overworked doctors

GET REGIONAL
Get Regional is the new information and referral service for people living and working throughout country Australia. Engaging and interacting rural, regional and remote communities, via dynamic interactive technologies, to ensure a more sustainable future for the bush. The most up-to-date and independent information service with a wide range of broadcast distribution services.
http://getregional.com.au
ARTICLES IN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

'Extending the paramedic role in rural Australia: a story of flexibility and innovation'
Due to chronic rural health worker shortages, in small-town Australia paramedics may now provide first-line primary care. As a result of broad consultation in south-eastern Australia and supported by multiple case-study methodology, this article puts the case for a 'rural expanded scope of practice' model for paramedics.

'Ethical professional practice: exploring the issues for health services to rural Aboriginal communities'
This reflective piece from a psychologist working with Canadian Aboriginal peoples integrates the personal with the professional. However, her recommendations and lessons learned will be useful to other health professionals who work with Indigenous peoples in other geographic regions.

'Developing dietetic positions in rural areas: what are the key lessons?'
Why are Australian rural and remote communities underserved by dietitians - and what can be done about it? The data from dietitians and their managers from 6 rural New South Wales sites contributes to a solution.

The Australian Diabetes Educators Association NT Branch Conference
27 - 28 April 2012
Alice Springs
http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/key-resources/conferences?cid=1063

The 7th National Deafness Sector Summit will attract leading decision makers, thinkers and practitioners in access, advocacy, service delivery, teaching, and self-help for Australians who are Deaf, DeafBlind, have a hearing impairment or a chronic disorder of the ear. The Summit will be held on two days - 28 & 29 April 2012 - at the Hyatt on the Park hotel in Melbourne - http://www.deafnessforum.org.au

Everybody's Business, Continence Promotion and Care
Darwin
Friday 4 May 2012
A free one-day education forum where you will learn about continence promotion and care.
A great opportunity to meet the experts, gain some practical tips, network and catch up with colleagues. There will also be a trade display featuring the latest and best in continence products and aids. To register and for more information visit http://www.continence.org.au/events or phone Sam Scoble (03) 9347 2522

NT Aboriginal Health Worker Summit
4 - 5 May
Darwin
For further information or any enquiries, please contact Erin Lew Fatt at AMSANT on (08) 8944 6666 or email erin.lewfatt@amsant.org.au

Heart Week 2012
During Heart Week, 6 - 12 May 2012, the Heart Foundation will be urging all Australians to learn the warning signs of heart attack. We need your help to raise community awareness of the warning signs. You could make Heart Week your organisation's wellness week, or just share the information with your family and friends - it could help to save a life.

Annual International Conference on Rapid Response Systems and Medical Emergency Teams
Sydney, Australia
7 - 9 May 2012.
http://www.rapidresponsesystems.org/

2012 National Conference on CQI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
'CQI for everyday and everybody'
Alice Springs Convention Centre
14 - 15 May 2012

Healthcare leadership for Challenging Times: Reducing Cost Through Quality Improvement
14 - 15 May 2012
Novotel, Brighton Le Sands

A Master Class for Boards, Executive Teams and Improvement Leaders
The UK public sector faces an unprecedented challenge of increasing quality and safety, improving patient experience of health care services and reducing cost at a time when actual demand and public expectation is rising. Over the past seven years the NHS Institute has supported the NHS to meet these challenges and through this has a significant amount of learning to share. Some of the most influential figures within the NHS will lead this Executive Master Class and share their experience on leading healthcare in these challenging times, sharing how they have reduced cost through quality improvement.

What you will gain from participating in this event:
Insights into the key drivers of cost saving through quality improvement; input from the most successful health leaders in the UK; Activity Based Measurement: what this means for Australasia, and what we have learned in the UK; time to reflect as a team and practical skills development through team based case study work.

Speakers:
* Jim Easton (Quality and Productivity at the System Level)
* Dr Peter Homa (Quality and Productivity at the Organisational Level)
* Helen Bevan (Mobilizing and organising for change including the role of the Board)
* Adrian Nowitzke (Improvement in Australia: Case Study: Gold Coast)
* Lynne Maher (The Patient Experience: Latest Developments in Learning from Experience Based Design)
* Angela Pedder (Applying the Learning: the role of Boards and Exec teams in driving change and quality improvement)

Workshop Fees:
* Early Bird Member: $770
* Early Bird Non-Member: $880
* Early Bird Consumer/Student: $330

Early bird registrations now open!

For more information click here or email admin@ahha.asn.au

Heart Foundation Conference 2013
Register your interest now for the 4th Heart Foundation Conference Prevention of cardiovascular disease: translating evidence into practice, being held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia, 16-18 May 2013. The Heart Foundation is the leading organisation in the fight against cardiovascular disease in Australia. This conference will host leading international and Australian speakers showcasing the latest updated on key clinical, research and public health cardiovascular disease issues. Register your interest by calling 08 9389 1488 or emailing eecw@eecw.com.au

Dermoscopy Third World Congress
23 May 2012
Brisbane
The Australasian College of Dermatologists presents the International Dermoscopy Society's Third World Congress in Brisbane, 17 to 19 May 2012. It will be followed by the ACD's 45th
Annual Scientific meeting, from 20 to 23 May 2012. The ACD said the majority of delegates are expected to be general practitioners and rural generalists interested in skin cancer medicine. For registration and accommodation, visit the IDS Congress website at http://www.dermoscopycongress2012.org/welcome.htm

The Aboriginal Health Conference 2012 Everyone's Responsibility
Melbourne
24 - 25 May 2012
The conference aims to inform and inspire delegates through defining the context of Aboriginal health in Victoria; outlining the priority areas and enablers for better health outcomes; demonstrating the value of investment in Aboriginal health; work-shopping ways to close the health gap (it's not easy but not impossible); sharing the experience of innovative and excellent work happening in Victoria; and learning how better health outcomes are being achieved for Aboriginal people.

Chronic Illness Alliance Peer Support Network presents: Peer Support - a Vital Step in Chronic Disease Management: An Evidence Based Approach
Friday 25th May 2012, 9.30am to 4pm (registrations open 8.30am)
Multicultural Hub, 506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne (Opposite Queen Victoria Market)
Limited to 100 places. Early bird: $150 incl. GST until 27th April: $165 incl. GST after 27th April

2nd National Indigenous Drug & Alcohol Conference (NIDAC 2012)
Fremantle, Western Australia
6 - 8 June
With the theme 'Beyond 2012: Leading the Way to Action', the Conference promises to build on the success of the inaugural National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference held in June 2010. It aims to highlight how the sector is able to lead the way to action in addressing the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs and its associated harms among Indigenous Australians.

Rural Doctors Association of Queensland (RDAQ) Conference
8 - 10 June 2012
Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove, Gold Coast.
International men's Health Week: Don't Just Talk Footy, Talk About Your 'Tackle'

In the lead up to International Men's Health Week 2012, Andrology Australia has again developed free health promotion resources to support individuals and organisations running men's health activities.

This year, International Men's Health Week (IMHW) takes place from June 11-17, and Andrology Australia's tagline is 'Talk about your tackle'.

Sophia Arthur
Andrology Australia
c/o Monash Institute of Medical Research
PO Box 5418, Clayton, Victoria, Australia 3168
Tel: 03 9902 4789
http://www.andrologyaustralia.org/

Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia Conference
13 - 15 June 2012
Melbourne

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare will be launching the report Australia's health 2012 on 21 June at the Australia's health 2012 conference in Canberra. Australia's health 2012 is the nation's premier source of statistics and informed commentary on the health of Australians. The one-day conference, hosted by Dr Norman Swan (Health Report, ABC Radio) brings together a range of the nation's leading thinkers and decision-makers in health and health services in Australia.

Government/private business - $495.00 (Inc. GST)
Not for Profit - $330.00 (Inc. GST)
Concession - $165.00 (Inc. GST)
All prices include one copy of Australia's health 2012.

Can't make it to the conference? Then pre-order your copy of Australia's health 2012 for $60 at https://custom.cvent.com/6EA5AD1A9EE94D618930D34015EF6F7A/files/b1a3bd2813584ba0b6f56b5d9526152b.doc

For conference inquiries email the conference team at conference@aith.gov.au. Conference website: http://www.cvent.com/events/australia-s-health-2012-conference/event-summary-1f2b8c3bd0f949c9e5aadbc9668b5.aspx
13th National Immunisation Conference
Darwin
19 - 21 June 2012

International Indigenous Development Research Conference 2012
27 - 30 June
The 5th Biennial Nga Pae o te Maramatanga conference will highlight Indigeneity and the multidisciplinary approach used for Indigenous development. Papers are sought that address the themes of optimising Indigenous economic wellbeing, healthy and thriving Indigenous families, and enhancing Indigenous distinctiveness. They will be underpinned by one or more of the following outcomes: Indigenous knowledge creation, building excellent Indigenous research capability, and research and Indigenous transformation.
http://www.indigenousdevelopment2012.ac.nz/

1st Western Australian Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health Conference
28 - 29 June
Perth WA
http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/key-resources/conferences?cid=1084

NAIDOC Week
1 - 8 July
http://www.naidoc.org.au

Third People's Health Assembly PHA3
6 - 11 July 2012
Cape Town, South Africa
The assembly will be held by the People's Health Movement (PHM). PMH is a global network bringing together grassroots health activists, civil society organisations and academic institutions from around the world, particularly from low and middle income countries. The Assembly flyer is available at http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/111215 3rd Peoples HealthMovement meeting.pdf
2012 PHC Research Conference 'Inform, Influence, Implement: Research improving policy and practice'
Canberra
18 - 20 July 2012
This is the premier annual primary health care research meeting. Delegates include primary health care researchers, allied health practitioners, general practitioners, academics, policy makers, decision makers, consumers and students. For more details visit http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2012

2012 Mount Isa Remote Health Conference: Are You Remotely Internested ... in Prevention - Building a Culture of Safety
1 - 4 August, 2012
Mount Isa, Queensland, Australia.

The Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health (MICRRH) is proud to announce the 6th Biennial Conference in the "Are you remotely interested...?" series, to be held in Mount Isa from the 1st to 4th August 2012. The themes for this conference, while continuing past themes of remote possibility, challenge and bringing evidence into practice, will have a focus on Injury Prevention, Farm Safety, Occupational Health and Safety, Rural and Remote Workforce. It will also explore themes around Clinical Training and Simulation, Cultural Safety, Prevention and Innovation.

The Conference Streams are:
* Occupational Health & Safety
* Rural and Remote workforce, Clinical Training, Simulation and Cultural Safety
* Prevention
* Innovation

These issues will be explored across a wide range of regional industries, including:
* Health
* Cattle production and agriculture
* Mining
* Fisheries and many more.

This conference is an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of injury prevention in rural and remote Queensland, exploring the challenges and opportunities for the prevention of injuries, workforce issues and future opportunities for injury prevention.

To ensure there is a focus on injury prevention, Farmsafe will hold in conjunction with us their biennial conference and the first day of the conference will be dedicated to farm health and safety issues as well as the wider exploration of rural injury prevention. As per usual the calendar of events includes many social and networking opportunities and chances to see Mount Isa and the region.
There will also be a range of pre- and post-conference workshops available, but places will be strictly limited, so keep an eye out for updates!

The conference website, http://www.micrrh.jcu.edu.au/conferences-workshops/2012-
remote-interested/ will be updated in coming weeks with further information regarding this year's conference, including registration details. Abstracts open; End of April 2012 - Abstracts close.

13th International Mental Health Conference
6 - 8 August 2012
Outrigger, Surfers Paradise Qld
The theme is 'Positive Change; Investing in Mental Health'. Mental health awareness and wellbeing strategies are urgent public concerns. Mental illness has the third highest burden of disease in Australia with approximately 45% of adults experiencing a mental illness at some stage of their lives, including alcohol or substance abuse disorders. The Conference will focus on the complex mental issues affecting the elderly including depression, dementia, delirium, paranoid disorders and anxiety. It will also explore the mental health issues of young Australians (aged 18-24 years) struggling with schizophrenia, depression, suicidal thoughts, bipolar, anxiety disorders and drug use and drug induced psychosis. The conference will examine state, federal, international and COAG initiatives, early intervention strategies, validated treatments, suicide prevention and the effectiveness of mental health preventive measures.
The conference website is at http://www.anzmh.asn.au/conference

National Australian Conference on Evidence-Based Clinical leadership
13 - 14 August
Mercure Grosvenor Hotel, Adelaide
The Joanna Briggs Institute would like to invite you to attend the National Australian Conference on Evidence-Based Clinical Leadership. The theme of this year's conference is 'Transforming Clinical Leaders to Reform Healthcare'. The focus of this conference is to:
* Promote the exchange of knowledge related to evidence-based leadership in health care
* Explore opportunities for collaboration across health disciplines to promote and support evidence-based approaches to clinical decision making
* Share and explore different approaches to evidence utilisation at the point of care
* Encourage clinical leaders and promote and foster leadership skills in clinical settings at all levels

The conference will also present important networking opportunities by bringing together: evidence-based researchers, students, guideline developers, clinicians, educators, policy makers, administrators and consumers - all with the shared goal of reforming healthcare into the future. Call for Abstracts is also open and further information can be found on the website. To register or to find out more please visit http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au

Why is oral health getting the brush-off?
15 August 2012
Canberra

Much is expected in the May Budget for improved oral health for people in need. Whatever the Treasurer announces, it will be only a start on national work to meet the enormous need in the area, including where rural areas are concerned. Five peak bodies are coming together to keep a focus on what needs to be done to provide fairer access, especially for disadvantaged groups. Better oral health is essential. Bad oral health is preventable. Lend your support to this vital and achievable cause. Set aside Wednesday 15 August, Canberra - and watch the Alliance website at http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/?IntCatId=14 (and those of AHHA, ACOSS, PHAA and AHCRA) for further program details.

Bridging the AT Gap, ARATA National Conference
Wednesday 22 - Friday 24 August 2012
Sydney, NSW

The ARATA 2012 Conference: "Bridging the AT Gap" will provide all stakeholders the opportunity to share their knowledge, experience and expertise to help bridge the AT gap between clients, technology, funding and policy. We would like to invite you to participate at "Bridging the AT Gap". This is an opportunity to become an integral part of the development and implementation of Assistive Technology while helping to influence thinking, increase understanding and improve the experience for all stakeholders.

Call for Abstracts is now open and exhibition and sponsorship opportunities available from http://www.arata.org.au

Further information and enquiries.
A.M. Meetings Plus P/L, Conference Management
Phone: +61 (0)3 9372 7182
Email: arata12@ammp.com.au
Website: http://www.arata.org.au

WA Carers Conference 2012: Caring at the Crossroads
Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
23 - 24 August 2012

The Conference theme is Caring at the Crossroads. National carer recognition legislation, the National Carer Strategy, and national and state reforms in health, mental health, aged care and disability support, have presented carers with a new road map to navigate access to services, both on their own behalf, and with the person they support. You may be in a position to share information with carers about the way forward.

Streams - Mental health and wellbeing, Services, supports and skills, Transitions in caring, future planning, New research projects for carers and caring

Call for Abstracts
Any research that is relevant to carers and caring situations
Mental health, health, ageing, disability
Country carers, older carers, young carers
Carers who are Aboriginal or from diverse cultures
Abstract format

Aeromedical Society of Australasia & Flight Nurses Australia 24th Scientific Meeting
29th Aug - 1 Sep Cairns.

LCANZ
7 - 9 September 2012
Sydney

Join your fellow health professionals including lactation consultants, maternal child health nurses, Plunket nurses, midwives, GPs, paediatricians, neonatal nurses and other interested participants as we discuss the conference theme, "Breastfeeding - the blueprint for life", across three days of workshops, plenary, concurrent and poster sessions. Prime networking opportunities will also be available at the conference trade exhibition, welcome reception and special gala dinner.

Keynote speakers
Ann-Marie Widstrom - Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, on skin-to-skin contact and the first hours after birth.
Cathy Watson Genna - Private practice IBCLC, New York City, USA, author of "Supporting Sucking Skills in Breastfeeding Infants"
Sheela Geraghty - Cincinnati Children's Center for Breastfeeding Medicine, USA, on current trends in breast milk expression and milk sharing
Other exciting speakers to be confirmed.

http://www.lcanz.org/conference2012.htm

Catherine Buckley
Secretariat
Lactation Consultants of Australia & New Zealand Ltd
PO Box A811
Sydney South NSW 1235
AUSTRALIA
tel +61 2 8211 2704 | fax +61 2 8211 0555
e info@lcanz.org
w http://www.lcanz.org

Population Health Congress
Adelaide Convention Centre
10 - 12 September 2012
The overall theme of this four-yearly event is 'Population Health in a Changing World'.
Conference website is at http://www.conferenceco.com.au/PopHealth/Index.html

CAPHIA 2012 Public Health Teaching & Learning Forum
13 - 14 September,
Adelaide
Abstracts are invited for papers for presentation at the CAPHIA 2012 Teaching & Learning Forum. They could be part of one of the forum's public health themes, which includes 'Indigenous Health is everyone's business': Indigenous Public Health Teaching and Learning. Closing date is 14 May 2012.

Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses, 14th National Conference
'Gettin' There'
19 - 21 September
Cairns, Qld
You are invited to submit an abstract by 29 June 2012.

Chronic Diseases Network Conference 2012 'Promoting Healthy Childhood - Preventing Chronic Conditions
20 - 21 September 2012
Darwin
The conference program will explore the range of factors during the early years that contribute to chronic diseases later in life. Chronic diseases can be the result of influences during pregnancy, childhood, or adolescence. Influences on chronic conditions later in life include, but are not limited to, whether a mother smokes in pregnancy, a child's diet and level of physical activity, exposure to domestic violence, parenting, and social determinants of health such as level of schooling, and the socioeconomic status of the family. The conference website is at http://www.cdnconference.com.au. Closing date for abstract submission is 4 May 2012.

Sowing the Seeds of Farmer Health
2nd Biennial National Centre for Farmer Health Conference
Monday 17 - Wednesday 19 September 2012
Hamilton Performing Art Centre, VIC
The Biennial National Centre for Farmer Health conference engages health and agri-professionals alike to raise awareness and develop strategies to improve agricultural health, well-being and safety. 'Sowing the Seeds of Farmer Health' conference themes include:
* Mental health - Wagging the black dog's tail
* Chronic disease and healthy lifestyles - Feast or famine
* Agricultural hazards and safety - Reducing harm on the farm
* Agriculture in a changing climate - It's not always fair weather farming
* The business of farming - Being productive in a digital landscape
* Human and animal health - All creatures great and small
* Ageing in place on farm - Duty of care versus dignity of risk
* Lucky dip - Tell us your specialty!


NCFH Photography Competition: 'In Focus - Celebrating Farm Life'
Hamilton Art Gallery, VIC
Exhibition: 29 August - 14 October 2012
Entries Close: 1st August 2012


Contact: Felicity Little, Event Coordinator
National Centre for Farmer Health
Felicity.Little@wdhs.net or (03) 5551 8533

**International Network of Indigenous Health Knowledge and Development Conference**
Brisbane, at the University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus
24 - 28 September 2012

The INIHKD is an international assembly dedicated to improving the lives of Indigenous peoples globally through Indigenous and community-led research, health services and workforce development. It facilitates a framework for the exchange of ideas, models and experiences in three main categories: Education, Training and Workforce; Health Services; and Research. The theme for this conference is Building Resilience: Renewing Individuals, Families and Communities. The aim is to translate new knowledge from the research setting to real-world applications in order to provide more effective services, thereby improving the future for Indigenous people. Streams for abstract submissions include: Using resilience to Close the Gap; Urban Resilience; Regional/Remote Resilience; Existing Resilience; Resilience through Indigenous Cooperatives; Resilient Research: what are the priorities; and Resilient Policies. Each stream has a question included to assist in focusing the content of
papers presented at the conference. For more information, please contact Lynda Caldwell at lynda.caldwell@hotmail.com. Closing date is Monday 2 April 2012.

38th International Mental Health Nursing Conference
3 - 5 October 2012
Darwin

This year's theme, The Fabric of Life, reflects the historical, cultural and social significance of fabrics in the region, for Indigenous as well as non-Indigenous Australians and for people from across the Asia Pacific. Throughout the world and throughout history, fabric has had a defining place in society and cultural identity. It is both literally and figuratively part of every person's life from the new born baby's bunny rug to the funeral shroud. Speakers and delegates are invited to consider the significance of mental health and mental health nursing in the construction of individual and social narratives as they relate to the theme...there are so many connections to explore here e.g. how we weave person centred care into our work; the detailed tapestry that is mental health, physical health and wellbeing; exploration of the patterns of life in our work with people who are vulnerable... The Darwin committee believe that our theme will provide opportunity for speakers to address a wide range of mental health issues.


6th Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress
3 - 7 October
Alice Springs, NT
http://www.pridoc.org/

CRANApplus 30th Annual Conference - "our pearl anniversary"
"Remote Pearls of Wisdom"
Wed 24 Oct - Sat 27 Oct 2012
The Sebel, Cairns

Breast Cancer Network Australia National Conference
Financial support available for rural health professionals & women

Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) is delighted to be holding a two-day national conference in Sydney on 25 and 26 October as part of the Sydney International Breast Cancer
Congress. The conference will allow health professionals and women to network and socialise, hear from world leading authorities and to debate the key issues in breast cancer research, treatment and care. As part of the Australian Government's Supporting Women in Rural Areas Diagnosed with Breast Cancer Program, BCNA is able to offer financial support for a limited number of health professionals & women in rural areas to attend. Applications for financial support close Sunday 13 May. Please pass this information on to your networks and any women with breast cancer. To find out more about the conference, program and financial support visit BCNA's website at http://www.bcna.org.au/events/bcna-conferences/national-conference-2012

Rural Medicine Australia 2012
Fremantle
25 - 28 October

RMA 2012 will be held in Fremantle, WA. It will have the added attraction of being a scientific forum. To be sure you do not miss out on your preferred workshops and sessions next year, make a diary note to register early - and consider presenting your work as research.

First International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health
11 - 13 November 2012
Melbourne
This conference is about the inter-relationship of law enforcement and public health, with invited papers from world experts in specific aspects of this relationship, from multiple sectors and disciplines; and case studies of successful collaborations of police and public health across a wide range of issues. Find out more at the conference website http://www.policing-and-public-health.com/

4th Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium
"Putting People First: Mental Health Needs and Initiatives in Australia Rural and Remote Communities"
19 - 21 November
Hotel Grand Chancellor on Hindley, Adelaide
http://anzmh.asn.au/rrmh/

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. The Conference website will soon be updated with all the important information like closing dates and abstract and paper guidelines. Further information: 02 6285 4660 or conference@ruralhealth.org.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.

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

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. 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 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.

Media Release
20 April 2012
Rural opportunities from health reform need better communication and system flexibility
Yesterday over 100 people concerned with healthcare services in rural, regional and remote areas came together from around Australia to discuss the implications of national health reform for rural health services and outcomes. They were attending a Policy Think Tank convened in Canberra by the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) and the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA).

Participants expressed a sense of uncertainty about the shape of the reforms and their ultimate impact on rural and remote areas that have highly diverse communities and needs. In particular, the role of Medicare Locals and their relationships with Local Hospital Networks remain unclear.

The major test of the reforms will be how well these new entities can deliver the services expected of them - in many areas over huge geographical distances. Performance measures need to be finely tuned to measure access to care and changes to health outcomes resulting from the work of Medicare Locals, Hospital Networks and Multi-Purpose Services (MPSs).

Those at the meeting called on Governments to improve communications to ensure that the structure and intentions of the reforms are clear to both the healthcare sector and rural communities. At this stage, many healthcare professionals feel disengaged from the process and morale is being affected. In particular there needs to be greater certainty about the funding to be available for Medicare Locals, block-funded smaller hospitals and MPSs.

A flexible workforce is a key to maintaining necessary levels of service in rural and remote areas. Participants called for a greater focus on training generalists in medicine, nursing and allied health, and incorporating them appropriately into integrated health care teams. There is scope for graduate and vocational students to contribute more to rural service provision as part of their training - with benefits for patients and existing clinicians, as well as the trainees themselves.

For healthcare organisations to deliver rural and remote services that suit local needs in an effective and efficient way, Governments must have a flexible attitude to funding and operating guidelines. Services should have the ability to pool funding from different sources and to share workforce and facilities with other parts of the health, aged care and community sector.

Participants want to see a measured approach to implementation of national health reform, with clear priorities agreed, flexibility in adoption to meet local needs, and more information and communication between all parties improved. Above all, those at the meeting emphasised the need for reforms in train to enhance patient-focused care in rural and remote areas.