



9th National Rural Health Conference, Albury, 7-10 March 2007

Media Release

25 February 2007

Attention rural and regional print and radio; health reporters

Health Experts, Delegates and Studies from Most Parts of Australia at National Rural Health Conference

Experts and workers from most parts of rural and regional Australia are reporting their health programs and initiatives at the 9th National Rural Health Conference in Albury from Wednesday 7 to Saturday 10 March. Areas covered include:

NSW- Albury, Barham, Bathurst, Bowraville, Bourke, Colleambally, Dubbo, Eurobodalla Shire and Greater Southern Health region, Goulburn and Southern Tablelands, South Eastern area, Moree, Moruya, Narromine, New England, Orana, Riverina, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga and Walgett;

VIC- Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Beechworth, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Cobden, East Gippsland, Horsham, Hume, Loch Sport, Mallacoota, Moe, Omeo, South western, Walwa and Wodonga;

Qld- Ayr, Burdekin, Cairns, Longreach, Mt Isa, South Western region (Charleville, Cunnamulla, Augathella and Quilpie), Toowoomba and Far northern Qld;

SA- Bordertown, Eastern Eyre, Pinaroo, Port Augusta, Spencer Gulf, Streaky Bay, Wakefield, Whyalla;

WA- Bunbury, Eastern Goldfields, Gascoyne, Wheatbelt, Greater southern, Kalannie, Kalgoorlie, Kimberley and Pilbara;

Tas- Burnie, Launceston, Scamander and NE Tasmania, all of state's rural areas;

NT- Alice Springs, Darwin, Galiwinku and Territory generally.

Many major presentations are Australia-wide - eg the Australian Women's Health Longitudinal Study yields information about older women's transport use, diabetes incidence in rural areas, and access to health services for middle aged women in rural Australia.

Others cover more than one state eg: broadacre farms in Vic, SA and NSW, paramedic services in NSW, Vic, SA and Tasmania and cross-border cancer issues. Some look at issues affecting all remote areas - eg cost and quality of food delivery and impact on health of community, and the rural health workforce. Small is 'good' versus small is 'bad' themes can apply generally.

Conference themes and streams include community resilience; refugee resettlement; the potential of small rural hospitals; arts in health; cancer; education for health; rural workforce; planning for a pandemic; ICT support; rural maternity services; mental health of farm families; rural emergency care; men's, women's, Indigenous, child and maternal, and adolescent health; and palliative care.

Interview locals on what current rural health issues will mean for their community.

Many delegates are able and willing to talk about how the conference issues will affect the health of their local community. Speakers are also willing to discuss how the programs described in their papers can benefit communities in other regions.

Full program at <http://9thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/program/docs/program.htm>

Further information: John Wakerman, Chairperson

0417 884 182

Contact Megan Stoyles on 0408 147 829 to organise general conference media interviews and interviews with delegates from local areas around Australia.