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Media Release

Emergency medicine in rural Australia: pre-Conference

The Rural Doctors' Association of Australia (RDAA) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) are hosting a National Symposium on a pressing health issue for the bush: the provision of quality emergency medicine. Reflecting the significance of the event, the Symposium is being opened by Minister Tony Abbott. It is being held on Wednesday 7 March in St David's Church Hall, Olive Street, Albury - one of the events before the opening of the 9th National Rural Health Conference, for which over a thousand delegates are now registered.

Delegates at the Symposium have the opportunity to contribute to innovation and progress in quality emergency care for rural Australia. Previous RDAA/ACRRM symposia in 2003 and 2005 were on Rural Procedural Medicine and Birthing Services in Small Rural Hospitals respectively. Both of them led to important outcomes for the rural medical workforce. Initiatives that resulted include Procedural GP Payments, Training for Rural and Remote Procedural GP Program grants, and funds for a National Consensus Framework for Rural Maternity Services.

The same opportunity exists on 7 March for people from all interested parties to influence directions in rural emergency medicine. People will be welcome from all health professions, and from federal, state and local government, rural organisations, consumer groups, health service administrations and rural communities. As well as a range of presentations from rural GPs and academics, papers will also highlight current work on this issue by the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia (CRANA) and Australia Rural Nurses and Midwives (ARNM). The outcomes of the Symposium will be published and provided to participants for use in their own work.

Emergency medicine training modules, including some designed in line with female doctors' preferred learning styles, will be available in conjunction with the symposium and conference, and may be eligible for the Training for Rural and Remote Procedural GP Program grants.

You can register for the Symposium without registering for the 9th National Rural Health Conference. Download the 9th Conference registration form on the Registration page at www.ruralhealth.org.au, fill in your contact details and indicate you are attending the Symposium only (under pre-conference workshops).

For information on the Symposium contact Susan Stratigos policy@rdaa.com.au, Anna Nichols a.nichols@acrrm.org.au or conference@ruralhealth.org.au

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