



25 February 2009

Welcome to another week of the Rural Nursing and Midwifery Faculty, Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) e-Rural. This newsletter is transmitted every Wednesday and provides a comprehensive summary of the week's events, related to Rural Nurses and Midwives. It is a quick and efficient means of keeping you up-to-date on relevant news items and media releases.

RCNA is the peak professional body for nurses. As a member you can influence a range of local and national issues by getting involved in the activities of RCNA – providing you with the opportunity to develop your career, while benefiting the nursing profession and the broader health of the community. To learn more about the benefits of becoming a member of RCNA go to <http://www.rcna.org.au/>.

HOT TOPICS

Maternity Services Review Report

Maternity Services Report

Minister for Health and Ageing – Media release 21/02/2009

The report follows a review led by Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer Rosemary Bryant and is a key step in developing a national plan for maternity services. The report is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/maternityservicesreview-report>. The report focuses on the need to improve the choices available to pregnant women, access to high quality maternity services, and support for the maternity services workforce. Australia remains one of the safest countries in the world in which to give birth... Recommendations include:

- Improving choice for Australian women by supporting an expanded role for midwives
- Consideration of the expansion of access to Medicare and the PBS for midwives – but only if accompanied by stringent professional requirements for midwives
- Consideration of support for professional indemnity insurance for midwives
- The development of new national cross-professional guidelines to support collaborative multidisciplinary care in line with best practice
- Consideration of the establishment of a single integrated pregnancy-related telephone support line
- Improved data collection and analysis, and further research
- Providing increased support for the maternity workforce, particularly in rural Australia

The report considered Commonwealth funding for homebirths but did not recommend it at this time...

For complete media release go to <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr021.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=2>

HOT TOPICS

Maternity Services Review Report

Maternity Services Review a step forward

Royal College of Nursing, Australia – Media Release 23/02/2009

Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) welcomes the Report on the Maternity Services Review which affirms the need for urgent change in midwifery services in Australia. The report acknowledges RCNA's key role in the professional representation of midwives and endorses a series of recommendations made by RCNA in a 2008 submission to the Review. "A key point of the RCNA submission argued that in order to meet the needs of communities and consumers, the vast majority of midwives should have achieved generalist nursing qualifications in addition to midwifery expertise," said RCNA's Chief Executive Officer, Debra Ceresa FRCNA. "In addition, RCNA stated—and the report quite rightly recognises—that access to MBS and PBS schedules and professional indemnity insurance is critical to ensure the successful expansion of the midwifery role." The report also provides encouraging outcomes for rural maternity services, an area of particular interest to RCNA since the launch of its new Rural Nursing and Midwifery Faculty. A key point of the RCNA submission was the need for collaborative and flexible models of care, particularly in rural settings where workforce shortages are particularly severe. "Australian women, their families and communities have incredibly diverse needs in terms of maternity services, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who wish to birth in culturally safe environments. The needs of rural people can only be met by an adaptable workforce that is highly committed to flexible modes of delivery," said Dr Marg McLeod FRCNA, Director, Research and Faculties at RCNA. "Due to workforce shortages, a flexible workforce is an absolute must, and this must include an emphasis on the educational preparation offered to midwives who will be working in rural areas." RCNA looks forward to further involvement in the plans surrounding the expansion of midwifery services in Australia.

Report calls for increased role for midwives

ABC News Online – Article 21/02/2009

A review into Australia's maternity services has recommended midwives be given more responsibilities and access to the Medicare system... The Maternity Services Review report, which will be released by Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon in Brisbane today, recommends midwives be given the same prescribing rights and access to Medicare rebates as doctors... Ms Roxon says the report will help the Government to provide more choice and support for new mothers. "There is capacity to make sure we utilise our workforce better," she told the ABC's AM program. "I think [there is] a lot of evidence now that collaborative multi-disciplinary teams - so midwives and obstetricians and GPs working together - often provide the best outcome for women and certainly provides options for them to have care closer to home..." Ms Roxon said she did not believe tensions would arise between doctors and midwives if the latter were given more responsibility. "I think what we actually saw from the review process where there were hundreds and hundreds of submissions, is that there are many doctors and GPs who already works closely with midwives and have a lot of respect for what they do," she said. "But we could improve the system that encourages care even more widely and perhaps fund it in a way or provide funding options which allow decisions to be made and encourage the midwives to acknowledge each other's strengths." Ms Roxon said the prohibitive cost of indemnity insurance for private midwives would be a hurdle any maternity plan would have to address. "The review does make clear that dealing with indemnity insurance for midwives is something that has to be part of the solution if we're to ensure that midwives have a greater role within the system," she said. "A proposal has been made that we give consideration to supporting some indemnity, again making sure that that would be for midwives who are working in a collaborative setting, not just in an isolated situation on their own."

Ed: Shortened version

HOT TOPICS

Maternity Services Review Report

Furore over midwife report as doctors go on the attack

WA Today: Josh Gordon – Article 21/02/2009

The Australian Medical Association has accused Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon of being "gung-ho" about the role of midwives and misrepresenting the findings of the Government's maternity services review... The changes could potentially allow midwives to prescribe medicines, open private group services and contract their services to hospitals. Midwives would also be given access to the Medicare system, although the report did not recommend Commonwealth funding for home births... But AMA president Rosanna Capolingua said the report had carefully avoided making such a claim and was instead "measured and tentative in its deliberations", reinforcing existing practice where midwives work in collaborative teams with obstetricians and GP obstetricians. "The minister's media release is much more gung-ho, claiming the report brings better services for mothers and babies a step closer, a claim the report itself carefully avoids," Dr Capolingua said. Specialist doctors argue that Australia's strong safety record for mothers and babies shows that the current system is working, while advocates of home births have accused doctors of being responsible for soaring surgical delivery rates. "I fear the introduction of a system where women are pressured into having a natural birth that puts them and their baby at risk," Dr Capolingua said. "Too often in other countries, including New Zealand, the midwife model means obstetricians are only called in when the natural birth has become a medical emergency..." Home Birth Australia secretary Justine Caines said she was devastated by the review's decision not to recommend Commonwealth funding for home births. "It is not putting women first," she said. "The maternity system is currently so medicalised without appropriate evidence to back it up. Most of the interventions are based on clinician preference, they're not based on research evidence..."

Ed: For complete article go to <http://www.watoday.com.au/national/furore-over-midwife-report-as-doctors-go-on-the-attack-20090221-8e9t.html>

Midwives seek access to Medicare

The Australian: Siobhain Verity – Article 21/02/2009

Midwives will challenge doctors' financial monopoly over birth and pregnancy after a new government report proposed they be allowed to bill Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for their services. Kevin Rudd's maternity services review will today deliver a long-awaited report that could dramatically increase opportunities for Australia's 12,000 midwives to set up their own practices, consult to public hospitals and provide subsidised services from private hospitals for expectant mothers... And it could also give midwives the right to write subsidised prescriptions and order MBS blood tests and ultrasounds. The Government's chief nurse, Rosemary Bryant, who chaired the review, used the report's foreword to predict resistance to its recommendations. "I am conscious that the findings of this review may not satisfy all contributors. Nonetheless, the case for change is unarguable," she said... The Australian Medical Association wants government funding of midwifery services expanded only if they remain under medical supervision. Obstetricians also strongly object on safety grounds to separate Medicare access for midwives who operate their own practices. Midwifery groups, on the other hand, prefer a New Zealand-style system where each pregnant woman receives a certain amount of funding and is given the choice of provider, whether midwife, GP or specialist obstetrician. But their wish lists allow for separate Medicare billing for services provided by midwives, without GP referral, as a compromise option... The review report, however, requires that midwives work as part of a team, involving doctors in some way in the care of expectant and new mothers. It also demands a higher standard of training from midwives given access to Medicare and the PBS. And it rejects government rebates for home births, which means parents who choose the option will continue to pay its full costs...

Ed: For complete article go to <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25085151-23289,00.html>

HOT TOPICS

Maternity Services Review Report

Maternity Services Review a good beginning

Australian Nursing Federation – Media Release 23/02/2009

... Ged Kearney, ANF Federal Secretary, said the focus on improving choice for Australian women through its support for an expanded role for midwives and expansion of access to Medicare and to the PBS to appropriately qualified midwives showed that the Maternity Services Review had understood the needs of women in Australia and the professional skills and knowledge available within the midwifery workforce. "Midwives deliver comprehensive and professional care during all stages of maternity care, including ante-natal and post-natal care, and women and families throughout Australia would most certainly benefit from an expansion of midwifery care, particularly for Indigenous maternity services programs." "Midwives are recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the health professionals best able to deliver safe, cost effective maternity services to most women", Ms Kearney said...

Ed: For complete media release go to <http://www.nswnurses.asn.au/news/18121.html>

Rural doctors welcome Maternity Services Review Report

Rural Doctors Association of Australia – Media Release 21/02/2009

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) has welcomed the Australian Department of Health and Ageing's Maternity Services Review Report, released today by Federal Health Minister, Nicola Roxon, saying it provides a strong way forward for improving access to maternity services in the bush. "Maternity services in rural areas have been under increasing pressure over the past decade with at least 50% of rural maternity units having been closed down in the past decade alone" RDAA CEO, Steve Sant, said. "Pregnant rural women are increasingly having to travel great distances to give birth as more and more rural maternity units have been closed by the state governments. Indigenous women also continue to have much worse birthing outcomes. Unfortunately there is no sign that the situation is improving"...

Ed: For complete media release go to

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Maternity%20Services%20Review%20report%20-%20February%202009.pdf

HOT TOPICS

Healthcare Updates

Mental Health Services for Victorians affected by bushfires

Minister for Health and Ageing – Media release 23/02/2009

In response to the tragic and devastating Victorian bushfires, the Australian Government is providing \$7.5 million for the provision of mental health support to affected individuals and communities. This builds on the social workers, psychologists and case managers currently providing counselling and support through Centrelink on the ground in fire affected areas. The package focuses on providing primary mental health care services to people most impacted by the tragedy, and support to professionals providing services to them. It also provides additional telephone based counselling services to respond to broader levels of distress within the Victorian community, and support through community organisations to assist affected communities to reconnect and psychologically recover from the impact of the trauma over the longer term. An initial allocation of \$4.5 million is being directed to immediately commencing these activities. Additional funding has been provided to Divisions of General Practice to offer increased mental health care services for people in impacted areas...

Ed: For complete media release go to <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr023htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=2>

HOT TOPICS

Healthcare Updates

National Men's Health Policy forums

Minister for Health and Ageing – Media release 19/02/2009

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, encourages men of all ages and backgrounds to take part in the Australian Government's Men's Health community forums to be held around the country. The forums are aimed at consulting with men across the country about the issues that affect their health and wellbeing. The community consultations will assist the Government in the development of the first-ever National Men's Health Policy... The Minister also today announced the appointment of three additional Men's Health Ambassadors to assist the Government engage men in this important task. Dr Mick Adams is the Chairperson of The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and has actively worked to promote men's health. Olympic diving gold medallist Matthew Mitcham is a courageous man; he battled depression and anxiety, and retired from the sport in his teenage years after physical and emotional burnout. In 2007, he returned to diving and at the Beijing Olympics claimed gold. Dr Rob Walters is a practising GP in Hobart and is a past chair of the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP). Dr Walters also hosts a regular ABC Tasmania segment talking about men's health... For further information on the forthcoming Men's Health community forums or to make a submission on the policy development visit www.health.gov.au/menshealthpolicy

Ed: Shortened version

Doctor's one step closer to peanut allergy cure

ABC News Online: Stephanie Kennedy – Article 20/02/2009

British scientists say a new study has brought them one step closer to curing nut allergies. People with an allergy to peanuts risk suffering anaphylactic shock if they are exposed to any traces of nuts. But now scientists in the United Kingdom have found a potential cure after running a desensitisation program involving 22 children with nut allergies. They were given small amounts of peanut flour each day and over a period of six months the amount was increased gradually, building up their tolerance. They can now eat five peanuts a day without any side effects. It is the first time a food allergy has been desensitised in this way. A longer trial is now underway to confirm the findings.

Hopes for obesity cure in gene discovery

Canberra Times: Nyssa Skilton – Article 23/02/2009

A gene expressed in the appetite centre of the brain may make people fat, a new study reveals. The research, published today in Nature reveals a link between the human FTO gene and control of energy expenditure. The report authors say this finding may one day result in the identification of new drugs to treat obesity. The team of researchers, led by a scientist at the Heinrich Heine University in Dusseldorf, Germany, studied genetically modified mice that were missing the FTO gene, showing they did not grow properly and had less fat tissue overall... The director of endocrinology at Flinders University in Adelaide, Professor Nikolai Petrovsky, said more effective public health interventions would be of greater use than chasing a "high-risk" obesity drug. He said there was no method for influencing the levels of the FTO gene in humans. Even if there was, the mouse studies confirmed the effects of this gene went beyond regulation of body fat. "Rather than wasting precious money on trying to find the magic bullet for obesity, governments would be better served spending more on effective public health interventions such as better education of primary school children and their parents on healthy dietary and exercise habits," Professor Petrovsky said.

Ed: Shortened version

IN BRIEF

Call for abstracts now open for

Royal College of Nursing, Australia's 2009 Annual Conference

Nursing: a sound investment for healthy returns

Royal College of Nursing, Australia's (RCNA) 2009 Annual Conference will be held at the Telstra Dome, Melbourne from 2-4 September 2009.

Titled *Nursing: a sound investment for healthy returns*, the conference aims to highlight the impact of nursing on the shape of Australia's health care system and the cost of health care service delivery. It will provide a forum for energetic debate and discussion on current professional issues, such as health care system reform and the economic impact of nursing on health care delivery.

The call for abstracts opened on 2 February 2009. Contributions to the conference should relate to the conference title and focus on one of four major themes: research, clinical, education or policy. The closing date for abstract submissions is 16 March 2009.

To download a copy of the call for abstract brochure, visit the RCNA conference website at <http://www.rcna.org.au/> and follow the link.

For further enquires please contact Margaret Whitrow, Events Manager on 02 6283 3421 or email margaretw@rcna.org.au

For anyone seeking guidance on submitting an abstract for the first time, please contact Dr. Marg McLeod FRCNA, Director of Research, Faculties and National Activities, on 02 6283 3409 or email: mmcleod@rcna.org.au.

Birthing in the Bush

Live webcast and simultaneous satellite broadcast Tuesday 10th March 2009 (AEDT). This program looks at the latest research on the care of pregnant women and their babies and possible medical complications. It explores the implications of such research for rural women and their health caregivers. It examines models of patient care for women with low-risk pregnancies that enable them to give birth in local communities. The principles of good antenatal care and appropriate management of labour and birthing will be discussed. The program considers the various roles and responsibilities of the rural maternity health care team and appropriate risk management strategies. It will also focus on the particular needs of Indigenous women and look at some programs that have been developed to address them. This will be a simultaneous live satellite broadcast and interactive webcast. To register for the webcast click here http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=355

IN BRIEF

Women's Health Education Resource Kit

The Women's Health Education Resource Kit will be available April 2009. It will be free for health educators as a tool to support the delivery of up-to-date, evidence-based health education sessions to women in their local community. To register your interest send an email with your name and contact details to womenshealthkit@jeanhailes.org.au.

National Health Workforce Taskforce - Clinical Training: governance and organisation

National Health Workforce Taskforce is inviting key stakeholders to provide feedback on the issues raised in the paper Clinical Training: governance and organisation. This discussion paper explores clinical placement governance and organisational issues. Go to <http://www.nhwt.gov.au/dataproject-gov.asp> for further information.

Physiotherapy services provided in palliative care in Victoria

The aim of this project is to identify the physiotherapy services that are currently provided in palliative care in Victoria. The project will identify ways in which physiotherapists currently contribute to care provision and opportunities for further contribution. Results will provide data to analyse current services and consider opportunities for strengthening the types of physiotherapy services that might benefit your clients. Log on to <http://tinyurl.com/5p745h> and complete the survey.

2009 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards

HESTA Super Fund, in conjunction with Members Equity Bank, is proud to present the 2009 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards. You can nominate a nurse in one of the three categories below.

Nurse of the Year: \$5,000 travel voucher plus \$5,000 study grant

Innovation in Nursing: \$10,000 development grant

Graduate Nurse of the Year: \$2,500 travel voucher plus \$2,500 study grant

Go to www.hestanursingawards.com for further information. Nominations close on 28 February 2009.

Dementia Training Study Centres and Dementia Collaborative Research Centres Surveys

In-depth evaluations of the Dementia Training Study Centres (DTSCs) and the Dementia Collaborative Research Centres (DCRCs) are being undertaken as part of the evaluation of the Australian Government's Dementia Initiative. As part of the evaluation of the DTSCs and DCRCs, Professor David Dunt, from the University of Melbourne, will be conducting two web-based surveys. Go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=UvtB4N8Xq3pcTX_2bYIGdjGO_3d_3d

ICN Calls for Applications to attend the 2009 Global Nursing Leadership Institute

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is delighted to invite Applications for the 2009 Global Nursing Leadership Institute. Further information and an Application Form can be downloaded from the ICN website <http://www.icn.ch/institute.htm>. The closing date for submission of applications by email to ICN at institute@icn.ch is 12 midnight 21st April 2009 (Geneva time).

National Families Week 10-16 May 2009

The 7th National Families Week will be held between 10 and 16 May 2009 (coinciding with UN International Day of Families on 15 May). National Families Week is Australia's main annual celebration of the importance of families. Registrations are open and you can register via our website at <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/index.htm>.

STATE BY STATE

Queensland

Media release – Department of Health

20/02/2009 – \$750,000 TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH IN WANDOAN

<http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/mms/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=62896>

20/02/2009 – Bligh Government delivers \$886,000 cash boost for Queensland hospices

<http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/mms/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=62891>

19/02/2009 – BLIGH ANNOUNCES NEW NORTHSIDE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

<http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/mms/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=62865>

New South Wales

Media release - Department of Health

23/02/2009 – 300 transplants at RPA http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/2009/20090223_05.html

22/02/2009 – New healthy weight coaching service

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/2009/20090222_00.html

20/02/2009 – Maternity services to stay at Bega District Hospital

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/2009/20090220_00.html

Media release - Minister for Health: Nicola Roxon MP

18/02/2009 – GP Super Clinic for Shellharbour

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr019.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=2>

Australian Capital Territory

Media release – Department of Health

21/02/2009 – 4th National Mental Health Plan - discussion paper

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10010771&pid=1234913836>

10/02/2009 - Managing personal responses to the Victorian Bushfires

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10098808&pid=1234241791>

Northern Territory

Media release – Department of Health and Families

18/02/2009 - *Helping Hands* provide more dental care to remote communities

http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Agency/News_Archive/Helping_Hands_provide_more_dental_care_to_remote_communities/indexd1_2308.aspx

Victoria

Media release – Department of Health

11/02/2009 – Help for distressed bushfire victims and workers <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/minister-for-health/help-for-distressed-bushfire-victims-and-workers.html>

South Australia

Media release - Minister for Health: Nicola Roxon MP

23/02/2009 – Medicare-Eligible MRI Unit for Morphett Vale

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr022.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=2>

Western Australia

Media release – Department of Health

23/02/2009 - Australian Organ Donor Awareness Week 2009

http://www.health.wa.gov.au/press/view_press.cfm?id=817

Tasmania

Media release – Department of Health

21/02/2009 – Northern Rehabilitation Boost <http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=26004>

20/02/2009 – Libs Have No Ideas for LGH <http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=26017>

19/02/2009 – Public Hospital Select Committee <http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=25989>

RELEVANT INFORMATION

RCNA Mental Health Workshops

Contact Tina Philip at t-philip@bigpond.net.au

RCNA - eBulletin

Go to <http://www.rcna.org.au/>

Living is for Everyone (LIFE) Framework

Go to www.livingisforeveryone.com.au

Aboriginal Cultural Birthing and Parenting

A powerpoint presentation is available - email indyamarra@hotmail.com

Beyondblue Newsletter

Go to www.beyondblue.org.au

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan

Go to <http://www.nphp.gov.au/publications/signal/natsinsa1.pdf>

Palliative Care Knowledge Network

Go to www.caresearch.com.au

Life After Breast Cancer – New Website

Go to www.nbcc.org.au/survivorship/

National Rural Health Alliance - eforum

Go to www.ruralhealth.org.au

Clinical Management Of Wound Infection

Go to www.woundinfection-institute.com

Palliative Care Knowledge Network

Go to www.caresearch.com.au

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Dementia Newsletter

Go to www.alzheimers.org.au

Of Substance – Mental Health and Drug Issues

Go to www.ofsubstance.org.au

Indigenous Allied Health Network Project

Go to <http://www.indigenousalliedhealth.com.au>

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council

Go to www.anmc.org.au

Growing Old Well – A Life Cycle Approach for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Go to <http://www.powmri.edu.au>

National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre

Go to www.nbcc.org.au

Australian General Practice Network (APGN)

Go to [Inside the Network](http://www.insidethenetwork.com.au)

Council of National Nursing Organisations

Go to www.conno.org.au

Therapeutic Guidelines: Cardiovascular, Version 5

Email sales@tg.com.au

CATSIN Newsletter

Go to www.indiginet.com.au/catsin

Rural Australian Medical Undergraduate Scholarships (RAMUS) – Gone fishin’

Go to www.ruralhealth.org.au

Carers Australia

Go to www.carersaustralia.com.au

Prescribing Hormone Therapy: Weighing up the Evidence

Go to <http://education.jeanhailes.org.au/>

Nursing Review

Go to www.nursingreview.com.au

Osteoporosis Women’s Health Update

Go to <http://www.jeanhailes.org.au/content/view/full/576/613/>

Suicide Prevention E - Newsletter

Email ryan@suicidepreventionaust.org

THINGS TO DO

Infection Prevention and Control

5 March 2009, Phillip, ACT. Email Sharon Maher at sharon.maher@gsahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Breastfeeding Support Everyone Wins

10 – 11 March 2009, Sydney, NSW. Go to www.lrc.asn.au

The Annual Women's Health Update and Education Day

14 March 2009, Melbourne, VIC. Phone Samantha on 1300 797 794

National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Week

14 – 21 March 2009. Email enquiry@bonniebabes.org.au

WAPNA educational events - Immunisation

16 March 2009, WA. Go to www.wapna.org.au

University Department of Rural Health Tasmania – Learning and Teaching in Clinical Practice

18 and 20 March 2009, Tasmania. Go to <http://www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/reply/net.php>

Transitional Care for Older People: Making the Difference

26 - 27 March 2009, Sydney, NSW. Go to <http://www.changechampions.com.au>

Follow the Path to Wellness Seminar - Chronic Disease Support Networks

28 March 2009, WA. Phone Rosemarie Winsor on 0449 256 648.

Using Tools to Make Clinical Handover Safe: a Practical Workshop

30 March 2009, Brisbane, QLD. <https://www.catalystevents.com.au/ClinicalHandover.asp>

2009 RCNA Nursing and Health Expo - Adelaide

5 April 2009, Adelaide, SA. Go to <http://www.rcna.org.au/>

2009 RCNA Nursing and Health Expo - Brisbane

26 April 2009, Brisbane, QLD. Go to <http://www.rcna.org.au/>

Australian Practice Nurses Association Visionary Conference

30 April, 1 – 2 May 2009, Melbourne, VIC. Go to www.apna.asn.au/conference

Facing the Future Together

30 April, 1 – 2 May 2009, Sydney, NSW. Go to www.nsw-ota.asn.au

Communicable Disease Control Conference 2009

4 – 6 May 2009, Canberra, ACT. Go to www.diseases.consec.com.au

International Nurses Day 2009

12 May 2009. Go to <http://www.icn.ch/>

2009 RCNA Nursing and Health Expo - Melbourne

17 May 2009, Melbourne, VIC. Go to <http://www.rcna.org.au/>

National Rural Health Conference

17 - 20 May 2009, Cairns, Queensland. Go to [Visit the 10th National Rural Health Conference website](#)

Australian College for Child & Family Protection Practitioners – National Conference

22 – 24 May 2009, Brisbane, Queensland. Go to www.acfpp.org.au

THINGS TO DO

2009 RCNA Nursing and Health Expo – Perth

24 May 2009, Perth, WA. Go to <http://www.rcna.org.au/>

International Congress on Innovations in Nursing

27 – 29 May 2009, Perth, WA. Go to www.icin2009.com

2009 RCNA Nursing and Health Expo – Canberra

14 June 2009, Canberra, ACT. Go to <http://www.rcna.org.au/>

Treading Softly: Reducing the Carbon Footprint in Healthcare

18 - 19 June 2009, Sanctuary Cove, QLD. Go to <http://www.changechampions.com.au>

International Council of Nurses (ICN)

27 June – 4 July 2009, Durban, South Africa. Go to <http://www.icn.ch/congress2009/registration.htm>

2009 RCNA Nursing and Health Expo – Sydney

28 June 2009, Sydney, NSW. Go to <http://www.rcna.org.au/>

2009 RCNA Nursing and Health Expo – Hobart

12 July 2009, Hobart, TAS. Go to <http://www.rcna.org.au/>

Inaugural Advance Care Planning Symposium

4 - 5 August 2009, Melbourne, VIC. Go to <http://www.changechampions.com.au>

Managing Challenging Behaviours in Older People with Cognitive Impairment

6 - 7 August 2009, Melbourne, VIC. Go to <http://www.changechampions.com.au>

10th International Mental Health Conference

12 - 14 August 2009, Surfers Paradise, QLD. Go to <http://www.anzmf.asn.au/Conference9>

National Allied Health Conference 2009

13 - 15 August 2009, Canberra, ACT. Go to www.ahpa.com.au

Outpatients – Beating the Waiting Game

17 - 18 September 2009, Cairns, QLD. Go to <http://www.changechampions.com.au>

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses – Mind to Care

29 September, 2 October 2009, Sydney, NSW. Go to www.astmanagement.com.au/acmhn9

4th Healthcare without Walls: Hospital Avoidance

28 - 29 October 2009, Sydney, NSW. Go to <http://www.changechampions.com.au>

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners

28 – 30 October 2009 Sydney, NSW. Go to <http://www.cdesign.com.au/acnp2009>

Investing In the Healthcare Team: Strategic HRM

6 - 7 November 2009, Sydney, NSW. Go to <http://www.changechampions.com.au>

CANCER IN AFRICA - The New Reality

11 – 14 November 2009, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Go to www.aortic2009.org

6th Australian Women's Health Conference

18 – 21 May 2010, Hobart, TAS. Go to <http://www.leishman-associates.com.au/awhn2010/>

Joke of the Week

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a Police Officer sees a car puttering along at 22 KPH. He to himself, "this driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" .So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies - two in the front seats and three in the back - wide eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?" "Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers." "Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly... Twenty-two kilometers an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly. The Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that 22 was the highway number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error. "But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't made a peep this whole time," the officer asks. "Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Highway 189."

We endeavour to present a diverse range of opinions and the views expressed in e-Rural are not necessarily those of RCNA.

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