



NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH
ALLIANCE INC.

Media Release

16 March 2009

10th Conference will focus on improved cancer services

Solutions to the widespread unaffordability and unavailability of cancer services in rural and remote areas are high on the agenda for the 10th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Cairns from 17-20 May.

“It’s been a long standing concern that rural women may choose to have a mastectomy, rather than radiotherapy, because of the associated impositions of travelling long distances and lengthy absences from home,” said Dr Jenny May, Chair of the National Rural Health Alliance which is organising the event.

“Decisions best made on the basis of medical indications and a person’s individual health needs often have to be made in response to personal costs, accessibility of services, the care needs of children and other family members and the difficulty of periodically replacing oneself in the workplace,” Dr May said.

Because of its significant impact on the lives of rural people, concurrent streams at the Cairns conference will be devoted to papers dealing with the challenges of cancer in rural areas with speakers from the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) and the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA).

Dr Adam Boyce will look at the future of regional and remote cancer service delivery; Professor Patsy Yates will examine a care co-ordination project; Prof David Goldstein will present the results from a survey on burnout in cancer health professionals; and Dr Sabe Sabesan will present novel ways to enhance rural access to medical oncological services. In addition, COSA/MOGA will present two panel sessions and Associate Professor Bogda Koczwara will facilitate a workshop on the Education Program in Cancer Care (EPICC).

Other speakers will present a range of papers on cancer services. Bob Neumayer will report on the Cooma Oncology Unit Pilot Project which achieved improved rural service delivery through metropolitan partnerships. Stephen Margolis will discuss the Royal Flying Doctor Service’s Primary Care Skin Cancer Clinic. Jane Phillips will profile CanNET, a new service model linking regional and metropolitan cancer services into single networks; and Leanne Brown will describe a dietetic service model for rural patients undergoing chemotherapy.

For the full Conference program and on-line registration go to www.ruralhealth.org.au

Further Contact

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