



NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH
ALLIANCE INC.

Media Release

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National conference a major opportunity for rural health

The convenor of the 10th National Rural Health Conference, Owen Allen, says that with two weeks to go more than 800 delegates have registered to attend this major rural health event to be held in Cairns.

“This major biennial event will see health care consumers, practitioners, service managers, researchers and policy makers from around the country gather to agree recommendations on the way forward,” Mr Allen said.

“It’s an opportunity for those of us concerned about the state of health in rural and remote Australia to make sure that our concerns are not pushed aside by the huge distractions of the financial crisis, wars on foreign soil and swine flu.”

Robyn Williams, host of Radio National’s *Science Show*, will be the Conference MC, introducing such speakers as former Canadian Health Minister, Monique Bégin, and John Kerin, Australia’s longest serving Minister for Primary Industries.

In keynote addresses Christine Bennett, Chair of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, will speak about the agenda for change; Rosemary Bryant, Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, will report on investment in rural maternity services; and Fred Chaney from the Remote Focus group and Desert Knowledge Australia will speak about the governance and service challenges of remote Australia.

Other keynote themes include health services planning, building resilience in Indigenous health students and staff and the role of new professions in finding new solutions.

Concurrent streams will focus on a range of issues as they relate to rural health, including recruitment and retention, schools, Indigenous community capacity, infrastructure, practice-ready health professionals, models of primary care that work, rural medical education, meaningful local consultation and effective local services.

There will be sessions on training the trainers, lessons from the NT emergency response, rural health policy, workforce and service redesign, and health professional innovation.

Focus will also be given to mental health, cancer, diabetes, men’s health, women’s health, maternity, child and family health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health allied health and rehabilitation. An arts-in-health stream will promote story telling, capacity building, and wellbeing.

Registration details and the full program are available at www.ruralhealth.org.au

Further Contact

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