



Media reminder

Tuesday 25 October 2011

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Rural doctors major national conference this Thursday to Sunday, Alice Springs

Rural Medicine Australia 2011, 28 to 30 October, Alice Springs Convention Centre

Country doctors from across Australia will converge on Alice Springs this Thursday to Sunday for a major national conference, Rural Medicine Australia 2011 (RMA 2011).

The theme of this year's conference is 'Rural Generalism – the future of sustainable medical services', and the delegates will be focused on plotting a course to promote the delivery of more doctors and other health professionals to the bush, and better access to quality health care for rural and remote Australians.

Hosted by the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), RMA 2011 will bring together more than 300 doctors, registrars, academics, educators, junior doctors, medical students and other health professionals with an interest in rural and remote health care.

The three day conference will feature influential key speakers from Australia and abroad; a national medico-political forum; and a wide range of clinical training sessions and research presentations.

RDAA President, Dr Paul Mara, said: "*Rural Medicine Australia* is the biggest event of its kind, catering specifically for rural doctors across Australia with a sole focus on healthcare delivery in rural and remote settings.

"We are excited about our medico-political forum, which will feature Federal Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, and Shadow Health Minister, Peter Dutton. We are expecting a lively debate about the critical issues impacting on the future of healthcare in the bush.

ACRRM President, Dr Jeff Ayton, said: "This year the focus of our keynote sessions is firmly on securing the future of quality medical care in the bush. We believe this involves having the structures and funding in place for an Australia-wide Rural Generalist training program that would give young doctors the appropriate skills to work as a rural doctor, and a viable career path to follow.

RMA 2011 will also feature training sessions in the key skills needed by medical professionals in rural and remote areas and the announcement of the Westpac RDAA and ACRRM awards for 2011.

For more information on this must-attend conference, including the full program, visit www.acrrm.com.au.

The conference program will feature:

Keynote speakers:

- Mr Mark Cormack, CEO Health Workforce Australia
- Professor Des Gorman, Executive Chair, Health Workforce New Zealand

Other main conference session topics:

- eHealth
- Telehealth
- Rural Generalist Forum

Medico-political forum:

- Warren Snowdon MP, Federal Minister for Indigenous Health
- Peter Dutton MP, Shadow Health Minister

Workshops include:

- Telehealth in rural medicine
- Emergency obstetric skills for rural doctors
- Mental health core skills
- Bush emergency skills
- Emergency medicine ultrasound and anaesthetics
- Advanced life support
- Sexual health
- Dermatology
- Rheumatic Heart Disease
- Musculoskeletal Medicine in rural practice
- *I wish someone had told me*: practical advice and tips for doctors entering rural practice
- Forensic medicine
- Hepatitis
- Asthma
- Contraception
- Radiology for the Rural Generalist
- Foetal monitoring
- Palliative care
- Visit to the Royal Flying Doctor Service – Alice Springs Base

Award presentations

The Westpac RDAA and ACRRM award winners for 2011 will be announced at a gala conference dinner on Saturday night.

- Westpac RDAA Rural Doctor of the Year
- Westpac RDAA-ACRRM Rural Registrar of the Year
- Westpac RDAA Medical Student of the Year
- ACRRM-RDAA Peter Graham 'Cohuna' Award

Full conference program: www.acrrm.com.au

What, when and where: Rural Medicine Australia 2011
Thursday 27 October to Sunday 24 October 2010
Alice Springs Convention Centre
93 Barrett Drive, Alice Springs, Northern Territory

A full day of various pre-conference workshops will be held on Thursday, with the main conference program beginning Friday. Media are very welcome to attend the conference—please contact Ineke Kuiper to advise of your attendance.

Media contacts: Ineke Kuiper (RDAA) on 0408 669 638 (on-site Wednesday to Sunday)
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