



Rural Doctors Association
of Queensland
“Caring for the Country”

Media Release 10th June 2011

Qld’s “Australian of the year” in Cairns 11th June

President of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, Dr Dan Halliday today announced Queensland’s ‘Australian of the Year’, Associate Professor Noel Hayman, as keynote speaker at the Association’s 22nd Annual Conference to be held at the Sebel Cairns on 10-12th June.

“Associate Professor Hayman was Queensland’s first Indigenous doctor, and is currently Queensland’s chosen ‘Australian of the Year’,” Dr Halliday said.

“While data show that rural Australians have worse health outcomes than their city cousins, the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is simply shocking.”

Indigenous men and women can expect to live on average 17 years less than other Australians, and Indigenous children are two to three times more likely to die before their first birthday than other Australian children. Health services for Indigenous people are poor, and the problem is far worse in rural and remote areas where primary care is most lacking.

“Our members are at the forefront of Indigenous health care in rural communities every day of the week,” said conference convenor Dr Konrad Kangru. “This year, we have made Indigenous health a key theme for our annual conference.”

“Our keynote speaker, Noel Hayman, is Director of a major Indigenous health medical centre at Inala that has been awarded by Queensland Health for excellence in its field,” Dr Kangru said. “Noel’s work has lessons for the rest of the State in improving the control of diabetes and immunisation rates, as well as in recruiting and training much needed Indigenous doctors. Noel has selflessly dedicated his life to improving Indigenous health care and raising public awareness about the issues.”

Other conference sessions include the “Closing the Gap” indigenous health forum, as well as:

- Managing Indigenous Medicine
- Tropical Medicine & Infectious diseases
- Indigenous Aged Care
- Birthing in the Homelands

**Assoc Prof Hayman delivers the keynote address on Saturday 11th June at 9:15am
in the Kuranda Room at The Sebel Cairns Hotel**

**Working media are welcome to attend the Conference as day delegates.
Bookings essential: contact Marg Moss on 0400 428 213 for more information.**

For comment or further information contact:

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