



Rural Doctors Association
of Queensland
“Caring for the Country”

Media Release 6th June 2011

Rural doctors focus on indigenous health

Indigenous health would be a major focus of the 22nd Annual Conference of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, RDAQ President Dr Dan Halliday announced today.

“Our keynote speaker is Associate Professor Noel Hayman,” Dr Halliday said. “Noel was Queensland’s first indigenous doctor and is Queensland’s current Australian of the Year.”

Assoc Prof Hayman will deliver the keynote address on Saturday morning, 11th June at The Sebel Cairns. Later there will be a “Closing the Gap” indigenous health forum, and sessions throughout the RDAQ 2011 Conference on indigenous and tropical medicine, infectious diseases and indigenous aged care.

The theme of RDAQ 2011 is “Empowering rural & remote health - daring to dream” and from this the program will focus on upcoming technological advances, policies and management strategies. This conference is typically attended by senior politicians and health executives and always offers a unique opportunity for all healthcare professionals to access key decision makers and to have their say on the future of rural health.

A conference highlight is the **Medico-Political Forum** scheduled for 11:30-13:00 Sunday 12th June where expert panel members grilling invited speakers will include:

- Rural Doctors Association of Queensland: Dr Dan Halliday
- Rural Doctors Association of Australia: Dr Sheilagh Cronin
- Australian Medical Association (Queensland): Dr Gino Pecoraro

As in previous years, RDAQ anticipates representation at the forum on behalf of:

- Queensland Health Minister - Geoff Wilson and senior Queensland Health executives
- Queensland Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships - Curtis Pitt
- Queensland Shadow Minister for Health - Mark McArdle (*confirmed*)
- Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs – Warren Snowdon
- Also invited: Warren Entsch, Nicola Roxon & Bob Katter

**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:

RDAQ President Dr Dan Halliday on 0418 773 228 or RDAQ Executive Officer Marg Moss on 0400 428 213
Conference organiser Shell Brennan 3105 7800 or sbrennan@healthworkforce.com.au

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