

# RuralNetworker

March 2011 | Promoting the networking, support and advocacy of the rural general practice workforce

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 4 March 2011.

**In this issue • NZRGPN conference on target • Demand on services • Health volunteers database set up for Canterbury and much more...**

## NZRGPN conference on target

Mindful of the recent tragedy and aftermath of February 22's Christchurch earthquake and weighing up the implications of holding a national conference so soon after the event, the Network believes that the best way to show support for our Canterbury colleagues and the wider Canterbury community is to continue with the conference and its programme of speakers, workshops and social events. To date all registrants, speakers, exhibitors have confirmed their availability to attend and registrations continue to grow.

Just over two weeks remain to register for this month's New Zealand Rural General Practice Network conference in Wellington.

The theme of this year's showcase rural health event is "Family Matters: Supporting rural general practice, rural communities, practitioners and their families".

The conference will be held from March 17-20 at the Wellington Convention Centre (Michael Fowler Centre).

It is also an opportunity for practitioners to talk about and share their experiences of the earthquake. Come along and listen to keynote speakers including the Hon. Tony Ryall, Minister of Health, Celia Lashlie, chief nurse Jane O'Malley, roving locum Dr Richard McCubbin and attend the various workshops and plenary sessions available as well as the extensive exhibition area. There's also ample opportunity to network and socialise with colleagues and friends at the various social evenings. For information on the programme, registration, sponsorship and social events [click here](#).

Or contact Communications and Membership Manager Rob Olsen directly on 04 495 5887 or 021 82 2468.

## Network conference CME accreditation

The Network's 2011 Wellington conference has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for 11 hours CME (Day One = 6 hours and Day Two = 5 hours) for General Practice Educational Programme Stage 2 (GPEP2) and Maintenance of Professional Standards (MOPS) purposes.

**Ultra Sound Workshop** – running concurrently on Day Two – has been approved for 5 hours endorsed CME.

## Pre Conference Workshops

For participants undertaking ACLS Level 7 – 12 credits of endorsed CME are approved.

For participants undertaking ACLS Level 5 – 8 credits of endorsed CME are approved.

For participants of the Teaching Workshop run by John Pearson from the RNZCGP – 5 hours of endorsed CME.

A Certificate of Attendance and Credit Claim Form is located in the back of the conference handbook.

## Demand on services

Otago and Southland say they're expecting increased demand on their health services for a prolonged period. (RNZ)

The new Southern District Health Board south of the Waitaki River says it has taken 100 people into its hospitals and residential aged care facilities since the quake on Tuesday (February 22).

As well, there's greater pressure on health services in the south from people moving out of Christchurch.

## Health volunteers' database set up for Canterbury

Health professionals volunteering to help in Christchurch are being encouraged to register through their District Health Board or through the National Health Co-ordination Centre (NHCC).

Health Minister Tony Ryall says the Ministry of Health is co-ordinating the volunteer responses with a national volunteers database.

General practice staff and pharmacies wishing to volunteer who have not yet done so, please complete the following form and return it to GPNZ. The registration form is in [PDF](#) or [Word format](#).

[Read more.](#)

## Medic: It's overwhelming

A territorial medic who spent five days in earthquake-ravaged Christchurch has returned to Invercargill a changed woman. (Southland Times)

Second-Lieutenant Louise Thomas, 22, who has a day job as the intern pharmacist at Southland Hospital, said she had been working around the clock since arriving in Christchurch.

[Read more.](#)

## Not a member? Join the Network!

The Network is the only nationwide membership-based organisation in New Zealand representing the interests of rural general practice.

Visit our [website](#) for additional information and an online application form or contact Rob Olsen on 04 495 5887.

## Network on Twitter

You can follow the Network and associated rural health sector news, views and events on Twitter or sign up and give us your news and views - just click on the Twitter icon below or visit our website [www.rgpn.org.nz](http://www.rgpn.org.nz)



## Announcement of demonstration sites for the diabetes nurse prescribing project

Late last year Health Workforce New Zealand, in partnership with the nursing team in the Ministry of Health and the Nursing Council of New Zealand, consulted with the health sector on an innovative approach to the delivery of diabetes health services. A summary of the consultation feedback will be published on the HWNZ website later this month.

Following the consultation period HWNZ has confirmed four demonstration sites in Hawke's Bay, Mid Central Health, Auckland and Hutt Valley DHB, which will begin this month. People with diabetes in these four North Island regions will have their medication managed by specialist diabetes nurses in a trial that aims to make life easier for patients and make better use of nursing skills.

[Read more.](#)

## Best Practice access

In light of the tragic events that have unfolded in Christchurch the BMJ has opened NZ access to its clinical decision support tool, Best Practice.

This access is open to the whole of New Zealand. By clicking the link below all hospital doctors, GPs and nurses will be able to access Best Practice.

[Click here to access Best Practice link.](#)

## PM releases initial earthquake assistance package

Prime Minister John Key has announced an initial support package for Christchurch businesses and workers affected by last week's (February 22) earthquake. (Media release from Prime Minister John Key)

[Read more.](#)

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