

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 6 May 2011.

In this issue • Registrars wanted to participate in diagnostic reasoning study • Applications open for Access scholarship • Nurses face first fee increase in five years and much more...

Registrars wanted to participate in diagnostic reasoning study

Nurse practitioner Alison Pirret is doing a PhD, through Massey University, that explores nurse practitioner diagnostic reasoning by comparing their diagnostic reasoning styles and abilities to that of registrars. The results will illustrate nurse practitioners' roles in future workforce initiatives aimed at best meeting New Zealand's healthcare needs.

A number of rural/general practice/primary health care nurse practitioners have enrolled in the study and Alison now needs to recruit an equal number of rural/general practice/primary health care registrars. If you are interested in participating in the study or wish to receive more information about the study, please contact Alison via email: apirret@middlemore.co.nz

Applications open for Access scholarship

Access and Rural Women New Zealand are looking for deserving applicants for their 2011 scholarship.

"We will be awarding the Rural Women New Zealand & Access Scholarship to a health professional to help further his or her studies," says Rural Women New Zealand National President, Liz Evans.

"Given our rural focus, we are particularly looking for someone who has an interest in providing health or disability services in the rural sector."

Applications close on July 1, 2011 and preference will be given to applicants who are studying at post-graduate level.

Further information and application forms can be found at www.ruralwomen.org.nz or www.access.org.nz

Nurses face first fee increase in five years

Application and registration fees for nurses have increased for the first time in five years with the fee for re-registration going from \$327 to \$3000. (NZ Doctor)

Needless to say the New Zealand Nurses Organisation is not happy with some of the changes which will, in many cases, have to be met by DHBs.

[Read more.](#)

Stoicism and silence 'stand in way of suicide help'

The Chief Coroner hopes more detailed reporting of farmer suicides will help family and friends understand and prevent further deaths. (RNZ) About 25 farmers have killed themselves each of the past three years.

Chief Coroner Neil MacLean says factors in suicides of farmers include financial uncertainty, farm work pressures, and environmental challenges and dispersed family support.

[Read more.](#)

Strong rural communities a must

A rural support trust representative sees building stronger communities as an essential part of helping farming families through stressful times. (RNZ)

Dame Margaret Millard, who chairs the Manawatu Rangitikei Rural Family Support Trust, was commenting on a speech to Taranaki farmers by Chief Coroner Neil MacLean.

[Read more.](#)

Wayward docs more likely male

Male doctors are four times more likely than female doctors to be found guilty of misconduct, with gynaecologists among the worst offenders, a study has found. (Stuff)

Obstetrician-gynaecologists and psychiatrists had the highest rate of disciplinary action, followed by general practitioners, lead author and Wellington lawyer Katie Elkin said.

[Read more.](#)

New CEO for New Zealand Medical Association

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) has a new Chief Executive Officer.

Lesley Clarke, the current Executive General Manager of Medibank Health Solutions New Zealand Limited, will commence her new role with the NZMA in early June.

Ms Clarke's previous roles include CEO of the Researched Medicines Industry Association, and Executive Director of the New Zealand Private Hospitals Association.

She also worked at the NZMA from 1997-1999, as the manager policy and development and deputy CEO.

Ms Clarke replaces Cameron McIver who was NZMA CEO for 15 years. NZMA operations manager Anna Phipps will continue as acting CEO in the interim.

Health trust plan announced

An elected health trust will be responsible for delivering public healthcare in the Wakatipu to the same standard as that found in the rest of New Zealand, the architects of the proposal say. (RNZ)

A draft proposal for a charitable trust called the Wakatipu Community Health Board was unveiled recently and put out for public consultation by the Wakatipu Health Governance Reference Group.

[Read more.](#)

Weight loss spreads health message

Susie Barlow knew she had to lose weight when she was handed a seatbelt extension on an aeroplane. (NZ Herald)

So the Whangarei occupational nurse did something about it and was one of 50 success stories showcased at the relaunch of a programme in Tauranga targeting type 2 diabetes. Barlow lost 30kg over two years and has kept it off.

[Read more.](#)

Health of the professional conference

Auckland will host the Health of the Professional Conference in November 2011. The programme caters for doctors, nurses, midwives, medical students, allied health professionals and health researchers as well as employers, HR professionals, unions and government officials working in the health sector.

The venue is the Langham Hotel, Auckland, November 3-5. To register or for more information [click here](#).

MidCentral diabetes nurses authorised to prescribe

Health Minister Tony Ryall recently congratulated MidCentral diabetes nurses who are among the first New Zealand registered nurses to independently prescribe medication to their patients. (MoH)

"These nurses are taking part in a demonstration in four North Island regions that aims to make life easier for diabetes patients and make better use of nursing skills," Mr Ryall said.

[Read more.](#)

For NZRGPN conference 2011 photos [click here](#)

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



Maternity budget 2011 initiatives

Extra funds have been allocated for maternity and Wellchild visits over the next four years

[Read more.](#)

DHB would welcome trust being in charge

Community governance of Wakatipu healthcare and the Lakes District Hospital would be welcomed by the Southern District Health Board. (ODT)

DHB chief executive Brian Rousseau was asked by the Otago Daily Times for his response to the draft proposal for a charitable trust called the Wakatipu Community Health Board. The draft proposal was announced recently by the Queenstown Lakes District Council-appointed Wakatipu Health Governance Reference Group.

[Read more.](#)

UFB data required

The health sector is a priority for rollout of Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB), with a policy goal for all public hospitals and most private health facilities to have access by 2015. GPNZ is working with Crown Fibre Holdings

(www.crownfibre.govt.nz) to compile a dataset of community health care providers that will inform their rollout of UFB.

Crown Fibre Holdings is in an intensive planning process and keen to obtain this information as soon as possible. To register your information on the database [click here](#) and complete by Friday, May 27, 2011.

US drug firms step up attack on Pharmac

American pharmaceutical companies have stepped up their attack on the New Zealand drugs-buying agency Pharmac at a crucial stage in free trade talks including New Zealand and the United States. (RNZ)

The lobbying comes as the US prepares to outline its position on protections for the pharmaceutical industry in the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) trade talks.

[Read more.](#)

Newsletters of interest:

Health Workforce New Zealand: [April 2011](#)

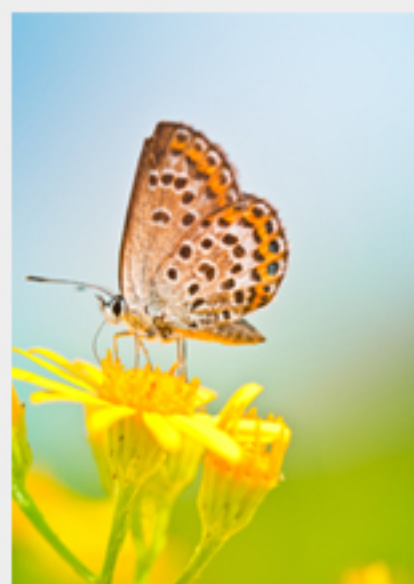
National Health Alliance E-news: www.ruralhealth.org.au

[Read more.](#)

Your views please...

Remember, your feedback on issues or information in this newsletter is welcome.

Feedback to: rob@rgpn.org.nz



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