

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 07 June 2019



In this issue: Rural Networks make combined submission to Health and Disability Services Review • Rural communities need mental health focus • PM to look again at Lumsden maternity services and much more...



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Rural Networks make combined submission to Health and Disability Services Review

The New Zealand Rural General Practice Network, Rural Nurses New Zealand, the New Zealand Rural Hospital Network and Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand have made a combined submission to the Government System Review of Health and Disability Services Panel led by Heather Simpson.

"We wanted to ensure that the Panel were cognisant of the unique issues facing the rural health sector, with rural health workforce challenges being front and foremost of these," said NZRGPN Chief Executive Dalton Kelly.

"Of all the geographic categories, New Zealand's rural towns have the lowest socioeconomic status, highest proportion of Māori, highest avoidable and amenable mortality rates, and most likely the poorest access to health services. Equity, with respect to health outcomes and access to services, is a core value for health service delivery in rural New Zealand. Therefore, at the heart of this submission is the right of every rural person to have equitable access to health and social services that are: sustainable, flexible, connected and accessible."

Read the combined submission [HERE](#). (PDF 239 KB)

GPs calling for Government to intervene as doctor shortage looms

Despite years of warnings, there is the looming reality of a doctor shortage as new figures claim nearly half the country's general practitioners (GPs) are planning to retire within the next 10 years. (One News)

Those working in the sector are feeling the pinch and are calling on the Government to intervene.

[Read more](#).

Rural communities need mental health focus

DairyNZ chief executive Tim Mackle has welcomed an increase in funding for mental health in the recent Budget, saying he hopes the increased frontline services for mental health will include sufficient support for rural communities. (Scoop)

"Dairy farming has always come with some challenges that can impact wellbeing, but the number and scope of these challenges is increasing," said Dr Mackle.

[Read more](#).

PM to look again at Lumsden maternity services

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern says she is "happy to have another look" at maternity services in Lumsden, following the birth of a local baby on the way to Southland Hospital on May 26. (ODT)

[Read more](#).

ALSO read [SDHB will provide oxygen to Lumsden maternal hub after baby born on side of road](#) AND [SDHB launches review into roadside birth](#)

First timers targeted as mobile breast screening unit rolls out

Encouraging women to put their health needs first will be part of a call going out around the Taranaki community in the coming months. (Stuff)

With the mobile breast screening unit available in Waitara and Stratford, BreastScreen Aotearoa kaitautoko (support person) Colleen Tuuta is tasked with recruiting "priority group" women to get their mammograms done.

[Read more](#)

Conference 2020 Auckland – NZRGPN gets behind WONCA Asia Pacific



In 2020 the Network will join the Royal New Zealand College of GPs to host the WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Auckland. The dates are April 23-26 and the venue is the Aotea Centre.

The decision to join the College in 2020 means the Network's and the College's annual conferences will be held under the WONCA (World Organisation of Family Doctors) banner and under the same roof next year. The conference will have a rural stream as part of the programme, says Network Chief Executive Dalton Kelly.

"Rural health professionals: doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and other allied health professionals are invited to register for and attend the WONCA Conference in Auckland.

"There will be a huge range of topics and speakers to choose from. Delegates are expected to come from all parts of New Zealand, Australia and the Asia Pacific Region, so this prestigious event will feature a diverse range of people, professions and learning.

The Network will hold its Committee meeting and Annual General Meeting at the 2020 conference.

Mr Kelly said the Network's regular National Rural Health Conference will resume in 2021 with a planned return to Christchurch as host city.

Family medicine theme

The theme of the 2020 conference will be 'Family Medicine leading the way towards an advanced world of equity, quality and compassion'. The essence of this theme is captured in the Māori whakatauki (proverb): Ko te pae tawhiti whāia kia tata, ko te pae tata whakamaua kia tina, which translates to "Seek distant horizons in pursuit of excellence".

Key themes of the scientific programme are:

- Patient-centred care
- Rural Health
- Equity
- Mental health
- E-health: health technology
- Multi-disciplinary primary health teams.

Abstracts submissions are now open. To visit the official Asia Pacific WONCA website visit this [LINK](#).

Conference 2019 – presentations and interviews online

To watch interviews with keynote speakers Professor Paul Worley, Hinemoana Elder, Michelle Boltz and Ruth Stewart follow the link [YouTube LINK](#) – Courtesy of Mobile Health.

Sessions slides from the conference are now available on the Conference 2019 website. Visit <http://www.nationalruralhealthconference.org.nz/nrh19>

You can access each speaker's slides by selecting "presentation" under each session title within the programme menu.

NZ Doctor stories (log-in required)

Surprise meeting to rubber stamp GP fees blind sides primary health group

A rift has opened between the Ministry of Health and the Primary Health Alliance after a rushed attempt by the ministry to push through a crucial change to GP funding.

The PHA is annoyed about the ministry calling an "extraordinary" meeting of the PSAAP negotiating group last Wednesday to discuss a recommended 2019/20 primary care annual rate increase for GPs.

[Read more](#).

New chief executive announced for college of GPs

The new chief executive of the college of GPs was chosen for her business acumen and membership engagement abilities, says president Samantha Murton.

Accountant Lynne Hayman was most recently chief operating officer of facilities management company PAE (New Zealand) Limited, and her experience includes chief executive roles for Horticulture NZ and Wellington Combined Taxis, [a media release says](#).

[Read more](#).

Health-sector stalwarts feature in Queen's Birthday honours

Twenty-one New Zealanders involved in the health sector have been granted Queen's Birthday honours. The recipients range from doctors and specialists to volunteers working across several health fields from general practice to oncology, from services for Māori to caring for people's mental health needs.

[Read more](#).

Rural Point of Care Testing programme passes the test says GP

More than \$1.4 million spent on Rural Point of Care Testing is reducing unnecessary GP to hospital patient admissions, a Wellsford GP says.

Since May 2018, Auckland and Waitemata DHBs have funded Rural Point of Care Testing (R-POCT) equipment and training for practices under the umbrella of the Auckland region rural alliance.

[Read more](#).

Kaitiāia practices close books sending urgent call for help with GP shortage

Primary healthcare in Kaitiāia is at "breaking point" with all the town's practices closing their books for enrolments for the first time ever, says a practice manager.

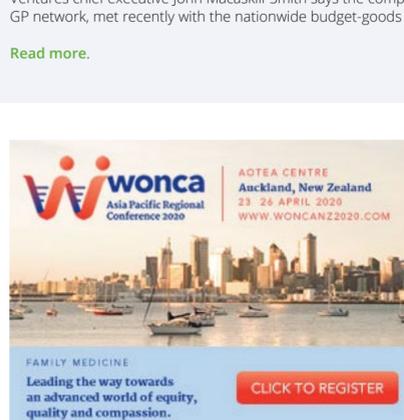
Cheryl Britton, from Te Hiku Hauora, which has three clinics in Kaitiāia and Coopers Beach, says Northland has always struggled to recruit GPs, but the shortage this year has become "untenable".

[Read more](#).

Where everyone gets a...GP consult? Pinnacle in talks with The Warehouse

Hamilton-headquartered primary health innovator Pinnacle Ventures is in talks with The Warehouse about offering general practice care in store. Pinnacle Ventures chief executive John Macaskill-Smith says the company, on behalf of its GP network, met recently with the nationwide budget-goods chain.

[Read more](#).



Not a member? Join the Network!

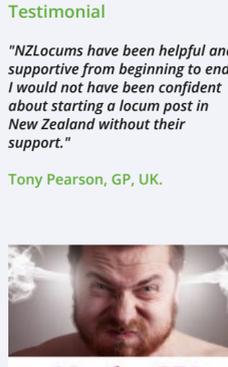
The Network is the only nationwide membership-based organisation in New Zealand representing the interests of rural general practice.

Visit our [website](#) for additional information and an online application form or contact Rob Olsen on 021 472 556.

Testimonial

"NZLocums have been helpful and supportive from beginning to end. I would not have been confident about starting a locum post in New Zealand without their support."

Tony Pearson, GP, UK.



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NZORD changes name to Rare Disorders NZ

"The new name, Rare Disorders NZ, puts the people supported by the organisation first. It better reflects the modern, effective organisation of today with links to more than 130 support groups and partners, and it clarifies our purpose," says Chief Executive Gill Greer. "We are determined to make a difference for people living with rare disorders, especially as New Zealand lags so far behind other countries in providing a fair go for this vulnerable group."

[Read more](#).

Links

Ministry of Health online bulletins, click [here](#).

Learning on Fence Posts, Otago University rural research blog, click [here](#).

Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click [here](#).

Mobile Health news, click [here](#).

Medline (USA rural health) click [here](#).

Death Documents Project (Ministry of Health), click [here](#).



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TELL US YOUR STORY

We are looking for health sector-related stories from around rural New Zealand. People, places, achievements and challenges. If you have a good yarn to tell contact Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email rob@rgpn.org.nz or 021 472 556.