

## Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 5 July 2019



**In this issue:** Research to define 'rural' vital for effective policy • National tour to encourage rural high school students into healthcare careers • Northland GP moved from troubled Zimbabwe with just \$78 and much more...



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The Network's health promotion partner.

### Research to define 'rural' vital for effective policy

The New Zealand Rural General Practice Network welcomes the Health Research Council's decision to fund a research proposal seeking to develop a consistent definition of 'rural'. (NZRGN media release)

The NZRGN is the membership organisation representing almost every rural medical practice in the country, as well as the Rural Hospital Network and Rural Nurses..

[Read more.](#)

### National tour to encourage rural high school students into healthcare careers

A groundbreaking initiative to encourage rural secondary school pupils into rural health careers kicked off recently led by the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network and 20 medical, nursing and allied health students (NZRGN media release).

In a whirlwind tour of much of New Zealand, the NZRGN and students will visit 36 rural high schools to speak to year nine and ten students about the possibility of careers in health.

[Read more.](#)

ALSO read: [National tour encouraging rural high school students into healthcare careers](#) and [Shortage of rural health workers can add to hospital patient numbers.](#)

### Northland GP moved from troubled Zimbabwe with just \$78

A paltry \$78 was all Dr Grahame Jelley was allowed by the powers that be in cash-strapped Zimbabwe to fly out with when he moved his young family to New Zealand. (Northern Advocate)

Fast forward nearly 20 years, the Kerikeri-based GP has a lot going for him due in large part to the vast experience of working in some of the most isolated communities in New Zealand, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

[Read more.](#)

### Waitangi Tribunal recommends new independent Māori health authority

Waitangi Tribunal claimant Tureiti Lady Moxon wants the Government to apologise for failing Māori in the health system. (Stuff)

"It's our people dying of preventable diseases, who are the worst off in this country, in a democratic society that's supposed to look after everybody," she said.

[Read more.](#)

### Decision to widen access to pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine

From 1 July, 2019 funding of the pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine includes pregnant women in the second and third trimester of their pregnancy, as well as parents or primary caregivers of infants admitted to a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or Specialist Care Baby Unit for more than three days.

[Read more.](#)

### Royal College endorses cannabis masterclass

A New Zealand masterclass in medicinal cannabis has been formally endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) – marking a significant first for the country. (Scoop)

Set to take place later this month in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, the medicinal cannabis training is available free of charge to doctors and healthcare professionals. It is sponsored at arms-length by New Zealand's largest medicinal cannabis company, Heliux Therapeutics.

[Read more.](#)

### Health pivotal to food production success

Now is the time to place wellness front and centre in our agri-food story if we really want to secure our share of the value we grow. (ODT)

In his latest Agri-business agenda, KPMG global head of agribusiness Ian Proudfoot said the food people eat is central to preventative healthcare systems.

[Read more.](#)

### Icy challenge for mental health awareness

The weather report is wet and chilly for Daryl Higgs, of Wanaka, but it is for a good cause. (The News)

He is raising money for the Mental Health Foundation by jumping into the icy waters of Lake Wanaka every day in July.

[Read more.](#)

### Rural proofing government's mental health boost

Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand (RHAANZ) congratulates Government on its commitment of \$1.9 billion to mental health in its recent wellbeing budget. (Scoop)

The wellbeing budget included over \$500 million investment in new front line mental health services by 2024, and the total of \$1.9 billion was the largest single item in the budget.

[Read more.](#)

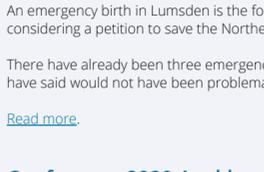
### Another emergency birth in South

An emergency birth in Lumsden is the fourth in recent weeks in the South and came as Parliament's health select committee was considering a petition to save the Northern Southland town's maternity centre. (ODT)

There have already been three emergency births, including one in an ambulance and one in the centre's carpark, which advocates have said would not have been problematic had the centre remained a primary birthing unit.

[Read more.](#)

### Conference 2020 Auckland – NZRGN 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 whakamaia 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](#).

#### NZ Doctor stories (log-in required)

#### Top billing of health minister and director-general fails to pull crowd at GP CME

Even the double act of the health minister and the director-general of health wasn't enough to pull a crowd at the GP CME medico-political session in Rotorua on June 21.

The main hall at the Events Centre was half empty during the medico-political forum, usually one of the best attended events of the three-day conference.

[Read more.](#)

#### New PHO aims to transform Northland primary care and 'deconstruct' GP role

The organisation taking over running primary healthcare in Northland (from June 1) wants to increase the number of general practice training places for rural trainees, and review how primary care teams operate.

This includes "deconstructing" the GP role to share work with other health professionals.

[Read more.](#)

#### Nationwide 'stocktake' of primary care nurse practitioners launched

Lack of information on where community-based nurse practitioners are working, and for whom, has prompted the launch of a nationwide online survey.

As of late June, 382 nurse practitioners are registered, with about half estimated to work in a range of primary care settings. But little is known about their employment status.

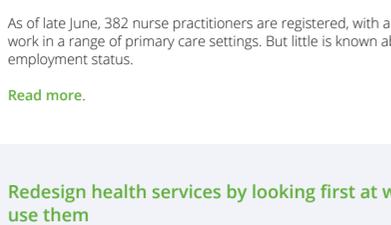
[Read more.](#)

#### Redesign health services by looking first at who is going to use them

It's time to redesign New Zealand's health system because it is failing to serve its communities, says academic Des Gorman.

Health services focus on those providing the services, instead of those who fund or receive them, Professor Gorman told delegates during a plenary session at the GP CME in Rotorua last month.

[Read more.](#)



#### Not a member? Join the Network!

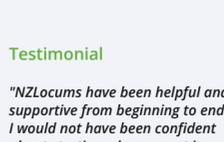
The Network is the only nationwide membership-based organisation in New Zealand representing the interests of rural general practice.

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.



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

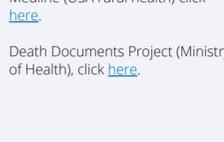
Learning on Fence Posts, Otago University rural research blog, click [here](#).

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](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz) or 021 472 556.