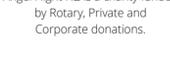


Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 06 September 2019



In this issue: Interim report on Health and Disability System Review • WONCA 2020 open for business • Peter Snow Memorial Award 2020 – call for nominations and much more...



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Spotlight on rural health sector in interim Health and Disability System Review

On September 3 the New Zealand Health and Disability System Review released its interim report on the New Zealand health and disability system.

The 300-page document is the first report from the System Review, and it indicates clear areas of focus, rather than making recommendations. Recommendations will follow in the next report which is due in March 2020.

The Report finds that:

- The health system is complex and fragmented
- There is an absence of collaboration within and across the health system
- Consumers frequently struggle to access services
- Inequity of access is a growing concern
- There are significant concerns expressed around leadership and culture within the health system
- The health system is not delivering for Maori
- The level of service delivery for rural communities is unacceptable
- There is need for clarity around the country's hospital network and the need for a rural hospital strategy.

Rural focus

The report also notes the widespread support for rural community health hubs and asks the question as to how these should be most effectively funded. It clearly acknowledges the issues around the definition of 'rural' and how the lack of clarity here can skew outcomes, reporting and understanding.

Page two of the report makes the clearest statement about rural health from anywhere in the report: "And we have seen rural communities forced to make do with a level of service accessibility that is simply unacceptable."

To read more and access the report click [HERE](#).

[Or go straight to the report.](#)

WONCA 2020 open for business - be an early bird!

The call for abstracts and registration for WONCA Asia Pacific Region Conference 2020 are now open. Early bird registrations close on December 20.

Next year 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.

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.

To visit the official Asia Pacific WONCA website visit: <http://www.woncanz2020.com/wonca20>

Peter Snow Memorial Award 2020 – call for nominations

The Network is seeking nominations from the rural health sector for the 2020 Peter Snow Memorial Award. Do you know of a medical or nursing colleague in rural health deserving of this accolade?

Nominations are now open for this award, which will be announced at the WONCA Asia Pacific Conference 2020, April 23-26 at the Aotea Centre in Auckland. This event will be co-hosted by the Network and the Royal New Zealand College of GPs, replacing both organisations' regular conferences.

The award was set up to honour the life and work of Dr Peter Snow who passed away in March 2006. Dr Snow was a rural general practitioner based in Tapanui.

For more information, nomination guidelines or to nominate someone click [HERE](#).

Or contact Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email: rob@rgpn.org.nz or telephone 04 495 5887 or 021 472 556.

Nominations will soon open for the Network's Rural General Practice of the Year Award 2020. Watch this newsletter and our [website](#) for more information.

Meanwhile, nominations for the inaugural [New Zealand Primary Healthcare Awards](#) are open.

It's time for GPs, nurses, practice managers, pharmacists and friends of the primary healthcare industry to step up and be counted as heroes in our healthcare system.

Awards recognise Māori nurses

The Tapuhi Kaitiaki Awards were presented during the Awards Dinner at the Indigenous Nurses Aotearoa Conference at the Pullman Hotel, Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland). (Nursing Review)

[Read more.](#)

St John Pleasant Point's new \$50,000 base nearing completion

A repurposed rural fire station will become the latest curious home for the St John ambulance in Pleasant Point. (Stuff)

Over the past year the South Canterbury town's ambulance has been based at the Pleasant Point Dairy operated by town's St John station manager Murray Dryden and before that it was housed in an old tractor shed behind the Pleasant Point Primary School.

[Read more.](#)

Challenges facing rural nursing

New Zealand's rural communities are diverse with small populations spread over large geographic areas – think the Marlborough Sounds for example. Meeting the healthcare needs of people living in and visiting these areas is a challenge for all healthcare professionals, including district nurses and nurse practitioners. (Nursing Review)

Professor Jane Mills, Pro Vice-Chancellor at Massey University's College of Health and Deputy Chair of the Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand, says nurses working in rural areas need to be 'generalist specialists' with a broader range of skills and knowledge than their urban counterparts.

[Read more.](#)

More mental health nurses sign up for voluntary bonding

A record number of mental health nurses have applied for a scheme to help reduce shortages in hospitals, in our communities, and in our regions, Health Minister David Clark says. (Beehive release)

The Voluntary Bonding Scheme, which has been running for a decade, had 148 mental health nurses accepted for the 2019 intake, the highest ever and an 11% increase on last year.

[Read more.](#)

Suicide statistics a sad reminder of challenge we face

News that 685 people are believed to have taken their lives through suicide last year is a sad reminder of the scale of the long-term mental health challenge we face as a nation, Health Minister Dr David Clark says. (Beehive release)

[Read more.](#)

Government announces Cancer Control Agency and PHARMAC funding boost

The Government is taking action to ensure New Zealanders living with cancer have access to high quality care no matter who they are, or where they live. (Beehive release)

"Cancer touches just about every one of us at some stage in our lives. On average 66 people every day are diagnosed with cancer – and they deserve world-class care," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said.

[Read more.](#)

Pharmac consultation over new medicines funding

The Minister of Health Dr David Clark has announced an increase to the Combined Pharmaceutical Budget. There will be an extra \$20 million this financial year and \$40 million the next year.

PHARMAC is now consulting on proposals for funding new medicines and widening access to current medicines. Of perhaps particular interest in primary health and public health services settings are proposals for levonorgestrel intrauterine systems (Mirena, Jaydess) and meningococcal ACWY vaccine:

- widening funded access to a [levonorgestrel intrauterine system](#) (LIUS) for contraception (Mirena), and funding of a new lower strength form of the Jaydess LIUS
- widening funded access to the [meningococcal ACWY vaccine](#) to people aged 13 to 25 years who are in close living situations such as university hostels and army barracks.

For details, click on the above hyperlinks. Please note consultation closes for these at 5 pm on Monday, September 16, 2019, and feedback can be emailed to consult@pharmac.govt.nz.

Please note this additional funding for the Combined Pharmaceutical Budget coincides with the announcement of the Government's ten-year [New Zealand Cancer Action Plan](#). The funding increase applies to any pharmaceuticals, and will mean PHARMAC can fund a range of new medicines, including new cancer treatments. PHARMAC is also consulting on funding three medicines for cancers ([olaparib](#) for ovarian cancer, [fulvestrant](#) for breast cancer, [venetoclax](#) for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia).

NZ Doctor stories – log-in required

Former gunslinger Don McKirdy recalls a life well lived in rural general practice

Retired GP Don McKirdy may have been reluctant to take to the stage at the RNZCGP conference in Dunedin, but his dry southern wit and deadpan delivery soon had the hall filled with laughter.

[Read more.](#)

College looks again at rejected GPEP applicants in bid to boost numbers

The RNZCGP is reviewing the cases of 22 applicants who failed to gain places on next year's GPEP programme as calls grow to boost the number of trainees.

College president Sam Murton says she has no knowledge of the individual circumstances of the unsuccessful applicants, but she and her team want to see if there is any 'leeway' for them to be accepted onto the programme.

[Read more.](#)

Without disruptive change, GP workload will be harder in 10 years – analyst

Data suggest the GP workload 10 years down the track won't be any easier.

Award-winning data analyst Emmanuel Jo has fine-tuned Ministry of Health data collection and modelling to the point it can predict the number of consultations GPs will be doing in 2028.

[Read more.](#)

2020-21 Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice call for applications

The Commonwealth Fund is pleased to announce the co-sponsorship of the New Zealand Ministry of Health in the Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice, bringing to the programme an invaluable policy perspective and commitment to a high performing health care system that will further enrich the experience of Fellows and their impact upon returning home. October 7, 2019 is the deadline for receipt of applications from New Zealand. For further information visit: www.harknessfellowships.org

[Read more.](#)

GNZ Members map the organisation's future

GNZ's strategic planning session last weekend saw members send a clear mandate to better support the development of Māori leadership within primary care. (Scoop)

At the session in Napier, attended by 25 primary care leaders, it was acknowledged that supporting the voice of Māori in decision making within primary care, is a key objective for the organisation. The development of services by Māori, for Māori and with Māori, clearly set out in the Wai 2575 findings, was welcomed and member networks are calling for GNZ to support this development as a key work programme.

[Read more.](#)

The Rural Youth & Adult Literacy Trust

This trust provides free reading and writing lessons to rural/isolated teenagers and adults. This service is available nationwide. Over 1 in 10 New Zealanders leave school without the literacy skills they need to participate fully in society. Word of mouth is really important when reaching out to those who are preliteracy. If you know anyone who might benefit from literacy support please ask them to call the Trust on 0800 891 339. The lessons are free and are over the phone or by Skype, so it's private and there are no classes to attend. For more information visit www.adultliteracy.ac.nz or find them on Facebook [Rural Youth & Adult Literacy Trust](#)

[Read more.](#)

Call for papers/posters: Rural Health and Care Conference 2019 - Wales

The third Rural Health and Care Wales conference 'Rural Resilience in Health and Care, communities and individuals' will take place on November 5 and 6 at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

The call for papers/posters is now open, please find link to application form [here](#).

Please complete the form and return to Anna.Prytherch@wales.nhs.uk by September 20, 2019.

Also visit www.ruralhealthandcare.wales for more information.

That's interesting!

Rural Women learn of cancer-detecting dogs

Dogs trained by K9 Medical Detection New Zealand (K9MD) are another tool to fight cancer through early detection, and Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) are getting behind the charitable trust's work. (Otago Daily Times)

The trust's founder and director Pauline Blomfield, of Dunedin, spoke to about 35 women at the Lowburn RWNZ branch recently to highlight the work it does, how it sources and trains its dogs, and what the dogs were capable of.

[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 has been instrumental in allowing me to fulfill my dream of relocating to New Zealand and working as a GP here. They offered me guidance from the earliest stages till the Orientation before starting work. I had a specific contact in NZLocums who helped at every stage and was very responsive to any queries I had. The Orientation material and programme were invaluable in getting me familiar with the workings of the NZ health system. I cannot thank them enough."

Dr Nicole Yuen, Singapore

MoH guidance document now available

The guidance document, Information Sharing Guidance for Health Professionals, from 1 July 2019, is now available for download on the [Ministry of Health website](#).

The guidance is to assist the health workforce to understand and respond to the new changes. It complements the guidance on sharing information safely, and supporting resources, published by Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry of Justice.

All health workers whether they work in government or non-government organisations, in hospitals or the community, or in primary, secondary or tertiary care need to understand how to share and request information safely.

Links

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

Leaning 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