

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 04 October 2019



In this issue: Rural Health Careers Promotion programme – request for donated medical equipment • Interim Health and Disability System Review – request for feedback • RSLAT survey reminder and much more...



Angel Flight NZ is a charity funded by Rotary, Private and Corporate donations.



New Zealand Office Supplies is the preferred supplier to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network. Take advantage of Network practice member benefits with New Zealand Office Supplies.



The Network's health promotion partner.

Interim Health and Disability System Review – request for feedback

The September 6 issue of the Rural Networker provided the [key points](#) of this 300-page document and a [link](#) to those of you with enough time to read the interim report. Its findings will not be a surprise to any of you who work in the rural health service, but importantly it does open up the way for the Network to try to provide some ideas or highlight some practices/models that may offer solutions. There were several questions raised by the report and through our presence at the General Practice Leaders' Forum (GPLF) we are trying to draw attention to those that really spring out at us. If you are able to cast your eye over any of these and highlight the ones that look the most relevant and answer those ones that you feel you want to then that would be very useful. We will need to collate this by October 14, so turnaround is tight, but there should be more opportunities for feedback regarding the review at other stages too. [HERE is the link to the questions](#).

Please send your feedback to: rob@rgpn.org.nz by Thursday, October 10, 2019.

Rural Health Careers Promotion programme – request for medical equipment

Following the Network's highly successful June 2019 tour of 34 rural schools in the Otago, Canterbury, Manawatu and Taupo regions by 20 tertiary students training across a range of health disciplines including nursing, psychology, dentistry, pharmacy and medicine, we are now organising another series of tours early to mid-November throughout Southland, Wairarapa, Hawke's Bay, Waikato, Coromandel and Northland. During the tours, the tertiary students will be given the opportunity to visit several rural practices, hospitals and health champions and will be given insight into the unique and gratifying experiences each place has to offer.

They will also be visiting a wide range of rural schools to promote rural health careers and give pupils the opportunity to use authentic medical equipment. In the past we have relied on medicine suppliers bringing their own equipment or borrowing it from their training institutions, but we would like to develop some kits which they can simply pick up and take with them, eliminating any issue with obtaining enough equipment and the risk that some items might get broken. We would like to obtain a wide assortment of medical equipment such as stethoscopes, tendon hammers, CPR dummies, anatomy models, surgical implements – anything which is safe, clean and has plenty of life left in it for the school pupils to use. If you have any items you would like to donate please contact Esther Maxim, Rural Health Careers Promotion Programme Manager on 021 547 853 or at esther@rgpn.org.nz

Read the [Rural Health Careers Promotion update](#).

ALSO read Doctors talking to high school students about rural medicine

Student doctors visited a Taranaki school to encourage students to think about a career in rural health. (Taranaki Daily News)

Ben Alsop, ten-Hove, 22, from Leeston in Canterbury, and Lauren Moorby, 26, from New Plymouth, are both fifth year medical students in placements at Taranaki Base Hospital.

[Read more](#)

RSLAT survey reminder

On September 3 a short survey was sent to rural practices by email hoping to capture their degree of engagement with Rural Service Level Alliance Teams (RSLATs).

The idea of the survey was to enable the Network and the Ministry of Health to gain a nationwide snapshot of engagement to date.

If you did not receive the survey or have had difficulty completing it please contact Rob Olsen, email rob@rgpn.org.nz or telephone 021 472 556. Or follow the [LINK](#) to access the survey.

Conversely if you have completed the survey, thank you and please disregard this reminder.

Celebrate family medicine at WONCA 2020 in Auckland



The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network are proud to be hosting the [WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2020](#) in Auckland from April 23-26.

This major primary healthcare event will see more than 1500 GPs and primary care practitioners from New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region gather in Auckland for four days of learning, debate, inspiration and celebration.

It has been 20 years since a WONCA conference was hosted in New Zealand – the last WONCA conference on New Zealand shores was held in Christchurch in 2000. WONCA 2020 marks the first time the conference has been held in Auckland.

This WONCA conference is particularly special as it will also be the first time that the RNZCGP and the NZRGP join forces to host a primary health care conference. Together, these two organisations represent more than 6,000 GPs and primary health practitioners from all corners of New Zealand.

With equity at the heart of the conference, WONCA 2020 promises to deliver an inspiring and diverse programme of plenary sessions, panel discussions, skills workshops and debates which explore the theme of: **Family Medicine - leading the way towards an advanced world of equity, quality and compassion.**

Network Chief Executive Dalton Kelly says rural health professionals – doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and other allied health professionals – are invited to submit abstracts, register 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."

Call for abstracts

The Programme Committee are currently seeking presenters for WONCA 2020. This is a great opportunity to share your work with others from New Zealand and abroad. If you would like to present, you're invited to submit an abstract before 31 October 2019.

The committee is accepting proposals for lectures, posters or workshops that relate to the core themes of the conference:

- Clinical research that informs daily practice
- Ways to achieve a more equitable future with equal health outcomes for all
- All aspects of Quality Improvement
- The importance of compassion, of continuity of care and other core values of family practice
- Innovation in health care delivery, integration
- Benefits and potential harms of advances in technology
- Sustainability in all its forms
- Particular issues focusing on Rural Health.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT HERE:

http://www.conference.co.nz/wonca20/call_for_abstracts/callforabstracts

Register now for Early Bird pricing

Registration for WONCA is open now. Register before 20 December to secure the fantastic Early Bird fees on offer.

Early Bird fees start from \$590.00, and include entry to all conference sessions, day catering, a conference satchel, and a ticket to the Welcome Reception on Wednesday 22 April.

REGISTER HERE:

<http://www.conference.co.nz/wonca20/registration/registration>

Keynote speakers confirmed to date

WONCA 2020 Keynote speakers include Professor Ian Couper, Professor Trish Greenhalgh, Dr Alexander Ng, Dr James Renwick and Elizabeth Iro, World Health Organisation Chief Nursing Officer. Click [HERE](#) to view their bios.

A lack of GPs and growing population putting pressure on public health

Despite changing her doctor to expedite medical appointments, Stephanie Opai takes her whānau to the Whangarei Hospital for urgent care as a lack of GPs in Northland is starting to bite. (NZ Herald)

She is among thousands of Northlanders who are being forced to wait for weeks to see their GPs and the situation is expected to get worse as population numbers go up.

[Read more](#)

My Māori Midwife: Breathing new life into traditional Māori customs in childbirth

As the shortage for midwives in New Zealand becomes more critical, two Māori midwives are in high demand due to their traditional techniques. (Stuff)

Camille Harris and Waimarie Onekawa primarily care for Māori and Polynesian women in one of the highest birth rate areas of Auckland – South Auckland. According to the Midwifery Council of New Zealand there are currently 3200 practicing midwives in the country, and only 10 per cent of them report Māori as their first or second ethnicity.

[Read more](#)

Climate change a 'health emergency' for New Zealanders, says medical association

New Zealand's leading medical organisation has joined others around the world in declaring climate change a health emergency. (Stuff)

New Zealand Medical Association chairwoman Kate Baddock told Stuff the association was "making a stand on behalf of the health of all New Zealanders".

[Read more](#)

GPs to move 'towards wellness' as Marlborough looks to tackle mental health

A new model of primary health care that puts wellbeing at its centre could soon come to Marlborough. (Stuff)

The Ministry of Health recently released a request for proposals from health boards and organisations for funding in primary health and addiction services.

[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)

[Read more](#)

HealthTap procurement lacked planning, clarity, oversight says Auditor-General

The \$26 million virtual care flop SmartHealth was rushed through without proper process and in breach of national rules, an inquiry into its procurement has found. (NZ Herald)

The Waikato District Health Board online doctor service failed to attract targeted users and was axed after the two-year contract with the United States-based company that powered the app, HealthTap, ended in May last year.

[Read more](#)

Euthanasia bill moves forward in committee stage

The End of Life Choice Bill has moved through another phase of its committee stage in Parliament and opponents' efforts to change the bill have again been voted down. (ODT)

National MPs put forward around 20 amendments to Act leader David Seymour's bill recently - but unlike the last session, where MPs stayed voting until 1am, the voting wrapped up at 10.30pm.

[Read more](#)

Alexandra to be NZ's first test bed for Spark 5G

Five households and businesses in Alexandra have been invited by Spark NZ to experience high-speed wireless broadband delivered by 5G for the first time in New Zealand. (ODT)

Spark Technology Change Lead Colin Brown said Spark chose Alexandra to trial the new technology because it had one of the highest uptakes of wireless broadband product anywhere in the country.

[Read more](#)

How the Clutha District is tackling its meth problem

The Clutha District is being lauded for its approach to tackle the growing methamphetamine crisis. (RNZ)

[Read more](#)

Mental health service here to help anyone

The numbers are staggering when you think about it. Mental illness affects about 3% of the population. (Clutha Leader)

[Read more](#)

More Zantac heartburn drugs sale suspensions, recalls over cancer links

US retailer CVS has become the latest to suspend the sale of a heartburn drug being investigated for links to cancer. (RNZ)

It follows concern in several countries over the presence of impurities in Zantac and other ranitidine products.

[Read more](#)

Fonterra sells stake in DFE Pharma

Fonterra announced recently it has sold its half-stake in DFE Pharma for \$633million, to the global CVC Strategic Opportunities private equity fund. (ODT)

German-based DFE Pharma is one of the world's largest suppliers of pharmaceutical excipients, used in medicines such as powder inhalers.

[Read more](#)

Are pharma companies courting Kiwi nurses?

Nurses are increasingly targeted by pharmaceutical companies around the world and a Wellington academic says that understanding the complexities of marketing should be part of nursing education and healthcare policy in this country. (Nursing Review)

A recent University of Sydney study found that 14,018 Australian healthcare professionals received more than \$62 million in payments and sponsorship from pharmaceutical companies between 2015 and 2018. Nearly 18% of the professionals were nurses.

[Read more](#)

Dr Tom: Here's to toil, tragedy, trauma and triumph

Thirty years is a long time, 4500 years is a lot longer. In 1985, 150 fresh-faced medical students, including myself, entered Otago Medical School, knowing very little about life and even less about medicine. (Stuff)

[Read more](#)

NZ Doctor stories – log-in required

New start for 17 Waikato practices with move to National Hauora Coalition

Stability and certainty is what 17 Waikato practices are after as they take up residence with a new PHO from today (October 2).

The new National Hauora Coalition practices and their 90,000 enrolled patients leave behind a diminished Hauraki PHO, with six practices and 63,000 patients.

[Read more](#)

Nurse practitioner from tiny Tuatapere wins teaching award

A nurse practitioner from a small town in Southland has been recognised for the teaching she provides to medical students.

Amanda McCracken, of the Tuatapere Medical Centre, received the Regional Centre Teaching Award last week from the University of Otago's Dunedin School of Medicine.

[Read more](#)

Life at the end of the road – nurses holding it together in Karamea

Karamea nurse Cathy Sampson clearly remembers the day she and her colleagues dubbed "Black Sunday".

"That was a humdinger," Ms Sampson says, of the hectic 24 hours that stretched her skills and stamina to the limit.

[Read more](#)

More than 50 entries so far for primary health care awards

The New Zealand Primary Healthcare Awards | He Tohu Mauri Ora is an opportunity not only to celebrate the successes of health professionals but to also learn from them, says Andrew Gaudin, chief executive of the Pharmacy Guild, the awards' co-host.

With more than 50 entries in progress so far, Mr Gaudin is encouraged by the response, and hopes the momentum continues.

[Read more](#)

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 04 945 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.

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 don't think there enough."

Dr Nicole Yuen, Singapore

Consultations

Podiatrists' Designated Prescribing proposal feedback

The Podiatrists Board of New Zealand is seeking feedback on a proposal that will enable podiatrists to prescribe medicines to their patients.

You are invited to provide feedback by 5pm, Monday, October 21, 2019.

The proposal will enable appropriately trained podiatrists to prescribe from a list of medicines relevant to their clinical practice. This is known as Designated Prescribing.

Currently, podiatrists use certain medications under exemption, and refer their patients back to their GP or other prescribers, when they require other medications.

Prescribing by podiatrists will reduce delays in accessing treatment and enable more equitable and cost-effective access to medications for patients.

There are eight questions, and this should take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete, depending on your responses.

Click [HERE](#) to access the consultation document and to provide feedback.

The Podiatrists Board of New Zealand is also undertaking face-to-face meetings with interested stakeholders who you would like to organise a face-to-face meeting, please click [HERE](#) to email.

Arms legislation views sought

The Mental Health Foundation is seeking rural health practitioner views on the [Arms Legislation Bill](#) to inform their submission later this month. The Bill says that health practitioners "must consider" notifying the police if they believe a firearms license holder should not use a firearm due to their physical or mental health.

Do you think this new requirement seems useful, or overly burdensome, or redundant? What actions do you currently consider when a patient seems at risk of self-harm? Do you think the Bill would change your thinking and/or actions in these situations? All thoughts to Janet McAllister, Senior Policy Analyst click [HERE](#) by 10am, Wednesday, October 9 and/or [make your own submission](#).

Links

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

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

Health Workforce Bulletin, 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](#).



Open your New Zealand bank account

The Network's official banking partner.

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.