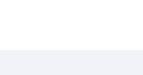


## Welcome to the New Zealand Rural Practice Network e-zine for 29 November 2019



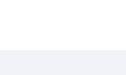
In this issue: NZLocums claim SEEK Annual Recruitment Award • Does your Rural General Practice Team go 'above and beyond'? • Christmas arrangements for the Network office and much more...



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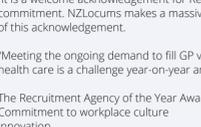


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The Network's health promotion partner.

### NZLocums claim SEEK Annual Recruitment Award



The Network's recruitment division, NZLocums has been named Medium Recruitment Agency of the Year at the SEEK Annual Recruitment Awards 2019.

Announced in Auckland last Thursday evening at the Events Centre, Auckland Museum, NZLocums was one of four finalists in the category.

On hand to accept the award were Network Chairperson Dr Fiona Bolden, Network deputy CEO Linda Reynolds and NZLocums Senior Relationship Manager Jenny Butt.

"The award is a fantastic achievement for everyone involved in NZLocums and the Network, and is very well deserved," said Dr Bolden.

"It is a welcome acknowledgement for Recruitment Team Leader, Jacinta Sanders and her team's work, professionalism and commitment. NZLocums makes a massive difference for rural communities right across New Zealand and we are all hugely proud of this acknowledgement."

"Meeting the ongoing demand to fill GP vacancies in rural New Zealand and enable people and communities to access quality health care is a challenge year-on-year and one that NZLocums consistently rises to and meets," said Dr Bolden.

The Recruitment Agency of the Year Award was judged on:

- Commitment to workplace culture
- Innovation
- Candidate engagement
- Commercial growth/achievement
- The agency's contribution to the success of the recruitment industry as a whole.

To visit the NZLocums website click [Here](#).



Pictured at the awards presentation are Mereana Hawthorn (SEEK NZ Sales Manager for Recruiter and SME Business), Network Chairperson Dr Fiona Bolden, NZLocums Senior Relationship Manager Jenny Butt, Network deputy CEO Linda Reynolds and SEEK NZ General Manager Janet Faulding.

### Does your Rural General Practice Team go 'above and beyond'?

The search is on again for New Zealand's best Rural General Practice Team of the Year as judged by the community. During the next week, rural practices will receive packs containing award information and entry forms for patients/members of community to fill in.

Now in its sixth year, the award will be announced at the WONCA 2020 Asia Pacific Regional Conference at the Aotea Centre, Auckland on April 25 at the Gala Dinner. The inaugural award was won by Raglan's West Coast Health Clinic in 2015, followed by Martinborough Medical Centre in 2016, Ngunguru Medical Centre in 2017, Aotea Health (Great Barrier Island) in 2018 and Matamata Medical Centre in 2019.

Entries can be submitted online or posted. However, to make collation and judging easier we would prefer as many entries as possible are completed online via [www.rgpn.org.nz](http://www.rgpn.org.nz). Or patients can complete their postcard and post direct to P O Box 547, Wellington, 6140 or hand it to the practice receptionist who can then forward the entries in bulk.

Postcards can be downloaded from [www.rgpn.org.nz](http://www.rgpn.org.nz) or further hardcopies can be ordered from [rob@rgpn.org.nz](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz)

### Christmas arrangements for the Network office

The Network office will be closed for the Christmas break from 12:00pm midday, Tuesday, 24 December 2019 and will reopen at 8:30am on Monday, 6 January 2020.

### LOCUM PAYMENTS

We wish to remind all our locums who are working over this period that you will need to submit your timesheet and tax invoice on: **Monday, 16 December 2019** (for payment on Wednesday, 18 December 2019) We will then process a pay run three weeks later and you will need to submit your timesheet and tax invoice on: **Monday, 6 January 2020** (for payment on Wednesday, 8 January 2020).

### Christmas wishes

Network staff and the NZLocums team would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thank you for all your support during the last year.

### Keynote WONCA speakers confirmed



Professor Papaarangi Reid joins the ranks of confirmed WONCA 2020 Keynote speakers, who include Ian Couper (Stellenbosch University - rural health issues), Trish Greenhalgh (Nuffield department of primary care - quality in primary care), Alexander Ng (Tencent.com - digital technology), James Renwick (Victoria University of Wellington - climate change), Elizabeth Iro (WHO chief nursing officer and member of WHO leadership team - nursing) and Gilbert Enoke (mental skills coach).

[Click here](#) to view the bios.



See WONCA welcome message from Network Chairperson Dr Fiona Bolden and College President Dr Sam Mutton. Click on the photo and see the video!

### Celebrate family medicine at WONCA 2020 in Auckland, NZ

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, New Zealand Rural General Practice Network, and Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa - Māori Medical Practitioners Association (Te ORA) 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 up to 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.

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 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." [REGISTER HERE - DON'T MISS THE EARLY BIRD OFFER - ENDS DECEMBER 20.](#)

## News

### Alexa, Google Home for communication, navigation and now healthcare management

A fridge that detects when medications are getting low and orders repeat prescriptions and reminders on digital assistants such as an Alexa to take your pills could just be months away.

Add to that a clinic where doctors spend more time looking at their patients than their keyboards while an Amazon Alexa records the information for them, then the future of health could start to look a whole lot different in the next few years.

[Read More](#)

### Health clinic of the future only a couple of years away, innovators say

Tiny heart monitors, virtual assistants and Fitbit data could be part of future doctor visits.

A model clinic of the future - envisaged by innovation-focussed health organisation Ventures - was on display at Digital Health Week in Hamilton, (Waikato Times)

[Read More](#)

### New agreement between WITT and Taranaki DHB gives locally trained nurses priority for employment

Nursing students trained in Taranaki will now have priority for placements within the region's District Health Board (DHB). (Stuff)

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Western Institute of Technology (WITT) and Taranaki DHB was signed at Taranaki Base Hospital recently.

[Read More](#)

### Med-student misconduct: 50 to complete remedial work

Fifty of the 53 University of Otago medical students found not to have met acceptable attendance requirements while on overseas placements will undertake remedial work, the university says. (ODT)

The three remaining have been let off the hook, the university finding they did meet requirements "in the light of additional evidence".

"Details of individual remedial packages will be finalised with each of the students across December, and will require approval by the Otago Medical School," a statement said.

[Read more](#)

### 'We don't know what we don't know' on medicinal cannabis

A Marlborough GP says the prescription of medicinal cannabis could be premature. (Marlborough Express)

The Medicinal Cannabis Scheme is expected to be operational at the beginning of next year, enabling the commercial cultivation and manufacture of medicinal cannabis in New Zealand.

[Read more](#)

### Transfers crucial to rural hospital

Patient transfers from Oamaru Hospital are a complicated process that require extensive co-ordination, about 50 members of the public were told at a community health forum in Oamaru recently. (ODT)

The forum was hosted at the Brydone Hotel by Waitaki District Health Services, the Waitaki District Council-controlled company that owns and operates the hospital. It aimed to give an overview of how those involved with the process worked together and what was expected of them.

[Read more](#)

### End of LifeChoice Bill: lines drawn as debate goes to public

The husband of Loretta Seales - who died while fighting in the courts for the right to end her life - is applauding a vote in Parliament that means euthanasia will now be decided by a public referendum. (RNZ)

[Read more](#)

ALSO read [NZMA fights on, college hopes ministry will listen, as euthanasia bill heads to referendum](#) (NZ Doctor (log-in required))

### Modern emergency care for Queenstown area

New, modern emergency department and outpatient facilities at Queenstown's Lakes District Hospital mean better emergency care for the growing tourist mecca's visitors and locals, says Health Minister David Clark. (Beehive Media release)

On November 15 Dr Clark officially opened the hospital's redeveloped Emergency Department and Outpatient facilities.

[Read more](#)

### Food industry asked to step up fight against obesity

The Government is asking the food industry to step up work to tackle obesity including reducing sugar, fat and salt in their products, better information for consumers, and tighter restrictions on advertising to children. (Beehive Media release)

Health Minister David Clark and Food Safety Minister Damien O'Connor [have responded to a report by the Food Industry Taskforce](#) which details their proposals for working alongside Government to reduce obesity.

[Read more](#)

### Nine sunscreen brands fail protection tests - Consumer NZ

The Cancer Society is being asked to recall all batches of one of its sunblocks because it doesn't give people the protection allowed on the label. (RNZ)

[Read more](#)

### NZ Doctor stories - log-in required

### Medical school boss hits out at holidaying students' sense of entitlement

The dean of the Dunedin School of Medicine has hit out at a sense of entitlement that he says has been revealed in the investigation of students holidaying on overseas placements. "This will be a wake-up call, not just for students," Barry Taylor says.

[Read more](#)

### Wairoa to be one-practice town as DHB closes primary care clinic

No money has changed hands in the transfer of primary care patients from a DHB to the sole remaining general practice in Wairoa.

The Hawkes Bay DHB is on 1 December closing its general practice in the town, called the Health Care Centre and located at the DHB's Wairoa Hospital site.

The Queen St Practice, the sole remaining general practice in Wairoa, will be run from the Wairoa Hospital site and will have a satellite clinic in the town.

[Read more](#)

### Two couples now on board at Junction Health

Junction Health Medical Centre in Cromwell is expanding to meet demand, but not just in size - a second couple have joined the board to keep ownership a family affair.

Former locum GP Keith Abbott says Cromwell has grown rapidly since he and his partner, nurse Alice van Zijl, took over the practice four years ago.

[Read more](#)

### Data and digital boss flags July for start on health IT platform build

Government ministers are pondering details of the promised health IT platform that will allow different patient information systems to "talk to each other".

Work on building New Zealand's National Health Information Platform will begin in July, Ministry of Health deputy director-general for data and digital Shayne Hunter told delegates at the HINZ Conference.

[Read more](#)

## Resources

### New patient resources for skin cancer

Most skin cancers are preventable. And if detected early, most can be successfully treated.

The resources can help you promote early detection to your patients

To order go to [SunSmart.org.nz](http://SunSmart.org.nz)



### Open your New Zealand bank account

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Additional information is available on PHARMAC's website under [applying for exceptional circumstances funding](#) this includes updated, simpler to use, downloadable [application forms](#). If you have any questions you can contact PHARMAC on 0800 66 00 50 or e-mail [enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz)

PHARMAC is also pleased to announce a decision to amend the funding restrictions for amino acid infant formula to ensure that children with high health need have funded access to these products. The full details of the decision, including the revised Special Authority, are available on the [PHARMAC website](#)

This includes for individuals that prescribers consider:

- Have not tolerated the change
- Have had breakthrough seizures
- Have had mood destabilisation
- There are clinical concerns about the individual's ability to manage the change (e.g. previous issues with medication changes, severe anxiety around this brand change)
- They have concerns about their ability to drive.

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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 5566](tel:0214725566).



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