

7 December 2006

Practice Manager

Dear Rural General Practice

### **Rural Support Funding Questionnaire**

As we mentioned in the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine last week, the Network wishes to identify what proportion of rural bonus and rural premium funding made available by the Government is actually getting through to rural General Practitioners and general practices. We understand that the rural bonus is normally paid directly to individual General Practitioners (but is sometimes paid directly to the practice) while both components of the rural premium (workforce retention funding & reasonable roster funding) are usually paid directly to the practice.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that some DHBs and/or PHOs may be withholding significant amounts of the rural funding (that has been earmarked by Government for supporting rural general practice) for other purposes. Accordingly, the Network has commissioned Conway Powell from *Centre for Business Development* to carry out a confidential survey for the Network to contact all rural general practices to obtain up to date information on:

- what funding your practice and your General Practitioners are actually receiving for rural bonus, workforce retention and reasonable rostering; and
- when and how you/your General Practitioners actually receive the funding.

Conway will then compile a database from all rural general practices, which will show us the total funding actually received and any variations between rural general practices in different DHB areas and under different PHOs. All of the information that is gathered will be kept completely confidential – and only Conway Powell (as project manager) will have access to practice-identifiable information. No individual practices will be identifiable in the reports that are prepared from the practice information.

When we have a complete picture of the rural funding pattern across the entire country, this will provide the Network with solid evidence on which to base an appropriate approach to Government. But to achieve this, we need your assistance with the information!!

Therefore, would you please print out a copy of the questionnaire (attached to this letter), fill in the four questions and mail the questionnaire directly back to Conway Powell at:

**Rural General Practice Questionnaire  
Centre for Business Development  
PO Box 5813  
Dunedin**

We expect that the questionnaire should only take a few minutes to complete – and ask that you send off your questionnaire response to Conway Powell by **20 December 2006**.

***To provide a little “extra encouragement” for general practices, all completed questionnaires received by Conway Powell by 20 December 2006 will go in the draw for a \$500 voucher for a new piece of medical equipment of your choice so...***

**REMEMBER TO FILL IN YOUR PRACTICE CONTACT DETAILS!**

If you have any queries on any issues regarding this questionnaire, please contact Conway Powell directly (email [contact@powellconsulting.co.nz](mailto:contact@powellconsulting.co.nz) or mobile phone 027-622-8154, Dunedin office 03-467-2082, Wanaka office 03-443-6143).

So, please look at the attached questionnaire as soon as possible, print it out, fill it in and send it off to Conway Powell – before you get busy again!!

Many thanks

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrienne Steele', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adrienne Steele  
Chief Executive