Rural Networker

September 2018 | Healthy Rural Communities

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 21 September 2018

NEW ZEALAND RURAL GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK

In this issue: Mobile health care for South - Rural General Practice Contract - Magical Marlborough beckons and much more...

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Mobile health care for South

Rural women's access to health services will become easier and less stressful once a new mobile health service arrives in the region in mid-December. (ODT)

"Te Waka Wahine Hauora: The Women's Health Bus", will provide health services, including cervical screening and contraception, to women in Otago and Southland's rural and isolated communities.

Read more.

Wanaka midwife faces going it alone when interim locums' contracts end

The state of Wanaka's maternity services keeps midwife Deb Harvey awake at night.

She is anxious because she could be the only midwife working out of Wanaka by the end of next month. (Stuff)

Two interim locum midwives, funded by the Southern District Health Board (SDHB), have been supporting Harvey since April when she became the town's only fulltime lead maternity carer midwife when a colleague left.

Read more.

Māori health: 'We have to be talking about racism'

Health experts are calling for frank and fearless discussions about racism and white privilege to improve Māori health. (RNZ)

In a new study, researchers from New Zealand and the United States highlight that people avoid talking about topics like racism and privilege.

Read more.

Tribunal hearing to address Māori health inequity

An Alaskan model of healthcare that gives patients more say in their treatment could be an answer to poor Māori health, says a kaumatua who will present his case at a major Waitangi Tribunal hearing in Ngāruawāhia next month.

More than 170 groups are set to converge at Tūrangawaewae Marae for the three-week long hearing.

Read more.

Ambulance services call for more Government funding for proactive approach to health

Ambulance services are calling for more funding from the Government as they try to change the way they work to a more proactive approach to health. (One News)

Paramedics are now increasingly treating people in their homes and communities and are partnering with other health services to do it.

Read more.

Rural broadband, mobile black spot programmes to roll out across Tasman

High-speed broadband and better mobile phone coverage are en route for many rural areas across Tasman district. (Nelson Mail)

The Rural Connectivity Group has identified 27 proposed sites in the district under the Rural Broadband Initiative Phase 2 (RBI2) and/or the Mobile Black Spots (MBS) programme.

Connectivity group engagement manager Caitlin Metz, of Auckland, told Tasman district councillors the team was in the process of finalising its build partners and equipment suppliers.

Read more.

Easier to buy tinnie in Tararua than get healthcare: Youth services manager

Jeanne O'Brien has been working with young people in the Tararua district for 30 years, but she's demanding changes to the service model - and soon. (NZ Herald)

Speaking at a mental health and addictions hui, organised by the National Party, the manager of Tararua Community Youth Services said being on the front line, she "sees everything".

Read more.

Approval of multi-product funding agreement with Novartis

Pharmac is pleased to announce a major funding package involving 10 medicines in seven key therapy areas through an agreement with Novartis New Zealand Limited (Novartis).

Five new medicines will be funded, and access widened to three others, from October 1, 2018. The decision will provide substantial health benefits for up to 50,000 New Zealanders with a range of health conditions.

Read more.

Travelling Scholarship applications are now open for 2018/19

The Pat Farry Rural Health Education Trust has announced application details for its Travelling Scholarship for 2018/2019. The annual Pat Farry Rural Health Education Trust Travelling Scholarship awards up to $10,000.00, which may be divided between two recipients. The scholarship assists medical students to travel internationally to a rural situation to observe new concepts, develop their own skills and share their learning with other students when they return.

Read more.

SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT

Rural General Practice Contract

ACC is currently looking to secure a three-year extension to the Rural General Practice contract which expires on March 31, 2019.

Extending a contract is an opportunity to reflect on what's working well and whether anything needs to change.

A couple of ideas have already surfaced including:

- Widening of the service provider definitions to include Enrolled Nurses (under the direction of a supervising health professional) and Health Care Assistants.
- Broaden the definition of casting material to include thermoplastics.

ACC would like to hear from you around other things you would like them to consider (large or small) to improve the service for you and ACC clients. While ACC can't make promises about what might change, your feedback is still important.

If you have any questions, ideas or feedback please email ACC at primarycare@acc.co.nz

Fee changes

ACC has consulted on changes to the Cost of Treatment Regulations. They plan to mirror the following changes in the Rural General Practice contract:

1. extend free visits to children under 14 years, at the same rate paid for children under 13,
2. reduce the cost of a doctor's visit for Community Services Card (CSC) holders.

What are the proposed rates for the Rural General Practice contract?

The proposed rates to implement these changes to the Rural General Practice contract are listed below:

Service	Proposed top up rate (excluding GST)
Fee free under 14's	$24.96 per visit
Community Services Card holders (to cap the co-payment at $18.50 including GST)	$12.17 per visit
Dependents of Community Services Card holders (to cap the co-payment at $12.50 including GST)	$17.39 per visit

When would these changes take effect?
ACC expect to implement these changes from December 1, 2018.

How can I have my say?
As a contract holder you're welcome to make a submission directly to primarycare@acc.co.nz by October 1, 2018.

General Practitioner with Special Interest Contract (GPSI)

ACC are currently looking at the spread of GPSIs throughout New Zealand, and where there may be a requirement for more practitioners under this contract.

So far they have identified the following regions that have service gaps:

- Northland
- Hawkes Bay
- Taranaki
- Southland

ACC would like to hear if you think there is a need for additional resource in your region under the GPSI contract. Once they have formally established the service gaps, they intend to commence a procurement process to address this.

RURAL
Network News
You're invited to magical Marlborough: National Rural Health Conference 2019
We'd love to see you there April 4–7!
health promotion agency

Spring 2018 Network News

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.

Need a GP?
NZLOCUMS
Follow this link!

NZ DOCTOR STORIES (log-in to NZ Doctor required)

Restricted hours for ambulance crews stretches PRIME medics

New rules for rural ambulance crews, meant to safeguard St John patients and staff, leave other PRIME workers at risk, two South Island GPs say.

Please email any feedback or questions to primarycare@acc.co.nz by October 1, 2018.

Consultation on sexual and professional boundaries

The Network's Executive Committee encourages its members to make submissions on the Medical Council consultation on sexual and professional boundaries.

The challenges in this area of the professional relationship are often accentuated in rural areas where there are smaller populations and fewer primary care providers.

The Medical Council is seeking your feedback on the following statements:

Sexual boundaries in the doctor -patient relationship (Appendix I);
Professional boundaries in the doctor -patient relationship (Appendix II).

The Medical Council has also attached its existing statements for reference:

The importance of clear sexual boundaries in the patient-doctor relationship: A guide for patients (Appendix III);
Sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship: A resource for doctors (Appendix IV).

The draft statement on *Sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship* **sets out to establish what is appropriate behaviour between a doctor and their patients.**

The draft statement on *Professional boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship* **is new and includes guidance on a number of areas which, if not managed appropriately, could result in doctors compromising the care they provide.**

Feedback is requested by 5pm on Friday, October 12, 2018.
ALSO visit the Medical Council's WEBSITE.

MBOVIS INFORMATION FOR RURAL GENERAL PRACTICE - MPI

As MPI and industry partners work on the eradication of Mycoplasma bovis, they know that many rural communities are affected by stress, uncertainty, fear and grief.

While they have human welfare as part of their response team, with Rural Support Trusts contracted in key areas, they are grateful for support across providers in rural communities who can extend beyond directly affected farmers.

Below are links to two key documents that you, your staff and patients might find useful.

The first is general information about biosecurity to help keep properties free of *Mycoplasma bovis* **(and other diseases).**

The second is on types of assistance available for affected farms. (Only those under legal movement restrictions are eligible for compensation; those under surveillance without restrictions are not and may need other support).

Rural Support Trusts feature strongly in this aspect. They may also be a conduit to other support and this includes putting farmers or families in contact with rural health professionals.

General information is on mpi.govt.nz/bovis.

If you are interested in keeping up to date on the eradication, there is a weekly stakeholder update that anyone interested is encouraged to sign up for: Join the mailing list.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2019

Magical Marlborough beckons

The Marlborough region's reputation rests rightly on its obvious attributes - sunshine, sauvignon blanc and spectacular scenery - and it's also the perfect central location for the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's 2019 National Rural Health Conference.

In a departure from recent years the Network has opted to take the conference from an urban to a rural setting and as it is the South Island's turn to host the event next year, Marlborough and more specifically Blenheim ticked all the boxes.

We take great pleasure in inviting you to come to Marlborough in April 2019 and experience all this comprehensive event and exciting, friendly region has to offer.

The conference venue is the Marlborough Convention Centre and ASB Theatre and the dates are April 4 - 7.

Conference 2019 will feature workshops, concurrent sessions and nine keynote speakers across three days concluding with a Members' political and breakfast forum on the morning of the fourth day.

A Gala Dinner and Awards Night, Welcome Function and several other dinners will again be features of the conference. Programme details, online registration, dinner venues and accommodation options will be available on the Network's website in the coming weeks.

CME accreditation will be notified when approved by the Royal New Zealand College of GPs.

A comprehensive trade and exhibition space will give delegates the opportunity to engage with industry representatives during the breaks.

WHAT: NZRGPN National Rural Health Conference
WHERE: Marlborough Convention Centre/ASB Theatre
WHEN: April 4 - 7, 2019

The call for conference abstracts closes at 8pm on Friday, September 21.

Peter Snow Memorial Award 2019 - nominations sought

Do you know of a medical or nursing colleague in rural health deserving of this accolade? Nominations are now open for the annual Peter Snow Memorial Award to be announced at the Network-s 2019 conference.

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.

Links

Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click here

Mobile Health news, click here

Medline (USA rural health) click here.

St John's strict interpretation of occupational health and safety rules, and its self-imposed "double-crew only" policy, are restricting the number of hours volunteer crew are available.

Read more.

Presidential nominations open in college election to replace Tim Malloy

The RNZCGP will hold an election beginning in October to choose a new president following Tim Malloy's recent resignation due to ill health.

The new president will be named on November 16. No interim president has been appointed to cover the intervening period during which the board will continue to govern the college.

In a brief statement, the college board has confirmed an election will be held 'as soon as practically possible'.

Read more.
ALSO read Where the heart is: Tim Malloy's road to recovery.

Rural GP gains extra training, breaks down barriers for birthing women

A Greymouth GP and rural hospital generalist has become the first graduate of the first Australian advanced obstetrics course held in New Zealand, and wants other GPs to do the course.

Brendan Marshall gained an advanced diploma in obstetrics from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) by studying at Christchurch Women's Hospital.

Read more.

ProCare rejoins GPNZ to help present a 'cohesive voice' for primary care

The country's largest PHO, ProCare has rejoined General Practice New Zealand, just over two years after it split from the organisation.

ProCare chief executive Steve Boomert says times have changed and it's important for primary care to present a 'nationally cohesive voice'. ProCare decided within the last month that it should rejoin the umbrella group.

Read more.

Blenheim struggles to turn corner on perennial GP shortage

Despite a new urgent care centre taking up some of the slack this year, Marlborough practices are again at capacity and have been generally unable to enrol new patients.

But Kimi Hauora Wairau Marlborough PHO chief executive Beth Tester hopes the region is about to turn a corner.

Read more.

PSAAP insider confident funding deal will be good for most practices

Negotiators have hammered out most of the details of an agreement to revise general practice funding from December.

"It's financially good for most practices," according to insider Mark Peterson.

Read more.

THAT'S INTERESTING

NZ-made bionic hand up for design award

The Kiwi designers behind a world-leading bionic hand have set their next challenge - to create a much smaller version for children. (ODT) David Lovegrove and the design team at 4ormfunction in Christchurch are finalists at the upcoming Best Design Awards for their innovative Taska bionic hand.

Read more.

bnz

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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.