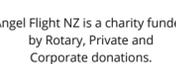


## Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 07 September 2018



In this issue: Travelling Scholarship applications are now open for 2018/19 - Huge rise in medical, crash calls - Aus banks take 'skinflint' approach to NZ - Shane Jones and much more...



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### HOT OFF THE PRESS

#### 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.](#)

#### Huge rise in medical, crash calls

Fire fighters across Otago are attending a steadily rising number of crashes and medical calls, as Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) rolls out mental health workshops for staff. (Otago Daily Times)

The number of rescues, vehicle crashes and medical incidents attended by fire crews in Otago has increased by nearly 40% since 2014.

[Read more.](#)

#### Aus banks take 'skinflint' approach to NZ - Shane Jones

Regional Economic Development minister Shane Jones says Australian-owned banks are putting profits ahead of their responsibility to rural areas. (RNZ)

Mr Jones has echoed concerns of the bank workers' union over Westpac, BNZ and ANZ branch closures.

"If the Aussie banks are going to continue to profit at \$5 billion a year then in my view it's not unreasonable they be required to maintain a level of service.

[Read more.](#)

#### Farmers reel from stress, anxiety, depression

Ninety-eight per cent of farmers Jane Tylee deals with through the rural support trust are suffering stress, anxiety and depression, with some having suicidal thoughts. (NZ Herald)

Tylee is the Tararua co-ordinator for the East Coast Rural Support Trust and was speaking at a mental health and addiction workshop in Dannevirke recently.

The fact-finding workshop was organised by the National Party, with Matt Doocoy, the Opposition spokesperson for mental health, and Wairarapa MP Alastair Scott, keen to learn more about the situation in Tararua, from the health professionals, educators and youth workers who attended.

[Read more.](#)

#### Māori suicide prevention groups want more support

A Māori suicide prevention group says children and young people are calling for help to support friends and whānau in need. (RNZ)

The latest suicide statistics show 668 people died of suicide in the year to June 2018.

[Read more.](#)

#### Māori medical students: 'It was just blatant, dumb-arse racism'

Māori students studying medicine at the University of Otago say they are fed up with the ignorance they face over the way they are selected into their second year of study. (RNZ)

There are limited spaces in the second-year program and everyone in their first year has to reach a grade threshold.

[Read more.](#)

### SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT

#### 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](#).

#### ARC funding review feedback sought

The Palliative Care Advisory Panel (PCAP) has been asked to provide feedback about an upcoming Aged Residential Care (ARC) funding review to be conducted by Ernst & Young.

The questions below may appear to relate to ARC with no specific reference to primary care, however this is an opportunity for primary care to contribute their perspective to this review.

Feedback is requested by September 19 ahead of the next PCAP meeting on November 8.

Questions for the panel:

- In your view, how well does ARC provide palliative care to residents currently?
- Are the right incentives and accountabilities in place to ensure appropriate availability and quality of palliative care in ARC?
- Are ARC providers suitably supported to provide palliative care?
- How well do Hospices and ARC work together to provide appropriate quality palliative care?
- How do you think the funding model for ARC can best support the provision of appropriate palliative care in ARC?
- Are there other matters you think we need to consider as part of the Review?

Please email your feedback to: Dr Debbie Barham, Waikato GP, Palliative Care Advanced Trainee: [Debbie.Barham@hospicewaikato.org.nz](mailto:Debbie.Barham@hospicewaikato.org.nz)

#### Cost of Treatment Regulation Review

ACC purchases many health services through Cost of Treatment Regulations (COTR's). COTR prices are reviewed on a regular basis. This year's review is being undertaken with a view to implement government policy for increased primary care access, as well as inflationary factors. These have resulted in a number of proposed changes:

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. Fees will be reduced so that they are the same as the fees charged by Ministry of Health Very Low Cost Access (VLCA) practices (under \$20), and
3. implement the previously agreed 1.56% inflationary increase and reinstate Regulation 12(b).

These proposed changes are open for consultation **until September 11, 2018**. To have your say, please [click here](#).

Please note, ACC intends to mirror proposed changes 1 and 2 in the Rural General Practice and Urgent Care contracts. While you can contribute to this consultation process, as a contract holder you're welcome to make a submission directly to [primarycare@acc.co.nz](mailto:primarycare@acc.co.nz)

ACC will make contact with your professional associations to discuss how these changes can be best implemented.

### 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 conference 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 [conference 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: NZRGP National Rural Health Conference  
WHERE: Marlborough Convention Centre/ASB Theatre  
WHEN: April 4 - 7, 2019

#### Call for conference abstracts extended

The call for abstracts for the Network's 2019 National Rural Health Conference has been extended until September 21.

Next year's conference, to be held at the Marlborough Convention Centre from April 4-7, offers CME accredited workshops, plenary and concurrent presentations with a rural primary and rural hospital health care focus to a wide ranging audience, which includes doctors, nurses, universities and students New Zealand-wide.

Following the offering of the opportunity process for the 2018 conference we are once again offering you the opportunity to present either an oral or poster abstract.

#### Themes

We are particularly interested in the following themes for rural-focussed presentations and preference may be given to abstracts related to these: Equity, Diversity, Sustainability.

To assist us with programme development you will be asked to select one of the below categories. Please select the most relevant one to your presentation.

#### Categories

Clinical, Nursing, Management, Community, Research.

#### Key dates

Abstract submission closes September 21, 2018  
Author acceptance notification: October 2018.

Please click [HERE](#) for more information and to submit your abstract.

#### 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](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz) or telephone 04 495 5887 or 021 472 556.

### Links

#### Rural Nurses NZ/Mobile Health webinar series:

Ben Harris, Med Lab Scientist, infection prevention and control, via [YouTube](#)

Nurse Practitioner, Michelle Boltz shares her experience in developing a hospitalist program in rural Arctic Alaska and the use of telemedicine via [YouTube](#)

Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click [here](#).

Mobile Health news, click [here](#).

Medline (USA rural health) click [here](#).



Latest issue out today!

#### 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.



Follow this link!

NZ DOCTOR STORIES (login to NZ Doctor required)

#### Grey areas or zero tolerance? Opinions sought on doctors' sexual boundaries

The ban on doctors having sexual relationships with patients is not up for debate, but grey areas have emerged where the Medical Council of New Zealand wants to clarify expectations of the profession.

Chair Andrew Connolly says it is never appropriate to engage in a sexual relationship with a patient. 'That is a given.'

Mr Connolly believes the profession is in agreement on this: 'I don't think anyone has challenged it.'

[Read more.](#)

#### 'Adventure playground' needs urgent care clinic

About 3500 patients in the central North Island face an arduous journey down the Parapara road to Whanganui for urgent after-hours care following a shake-up of GP services in the Wairarano.

But the local PHO, Whanganui Regional Health Network, is working towards fulfilling its aim to establish an urgent care clinic in the district, chief executive Judith MacDonal says.

It's likely to be located in Ōhakeuna to serve not only the local community but tourists drawn to the Ruapehu district as an 'adventure playground', Mrs MacDonald says.

[Read more.](#)

#### Northland DHB road trip seeks grass-roots views on improving Māori health

Northland DHB staff have been on the road for the past week asking people across Te Tai Tokerau how they want to see Māori health develop in coming years.

Speaking from Kaikohe, the DHB's general manager for Māori Health, Harold Wereta says they are about half way through the road trip which began in the Far North settlement of Ngataki on 29 August.

[Read more.](#)

### EVENTS

#### 2018 New Zealand Melanoma Summit

November 2-3, Auckland

dermatologists, pathologists, general practitioners, surgeons, oncologists, researchers and health promoters who are passionate about reducing the incidence and impact of melanoma in New Zealand at this two-day multi-disciplinary meeting.

The programme features experts recognised internationally for their contribution to melanoma prevention, as well as workshops on control, diagnosis, clinical management and research.

The programme also includes a primary care-related workshop involving Associate Professor Cliff Rosendahl on the use of dermatoscopy in skin cancer diagnosis, including the basis of the 'chaos and clues' approach to dermatoscopy.

The 2018 New Zealand Melanoma Summit has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved for up to 11.5 CME credits for the General Practice Educational Programme (GPEP) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes.

For more information and to register [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](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz) or 021 472 556.