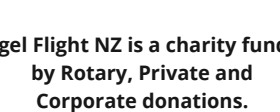




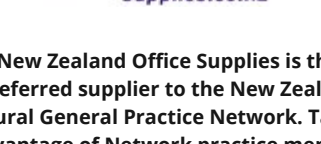
Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 16 November 2018



In this issue: Commitment to addressing rural health workforce crisis welcomed - Government announcement on rural health workforce - Social Security Act 2018 and much more...



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



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The Network's health promotion partner.

Rural health school update

Commitment to addressing rural health workforce crisis welcomed; detail now needed

The New Zealand Rural General Practice Network welcomed government acknowledgment that the current rural health workforce is not sustainable and action is required to avoid a rural health crisis.

The NZRGPN is the membership-based organisation representing New Zealand's rural medical practices.

"We're pleased with the clear recognition that there are significant challenges facing the delivery of rural healthcare in New Zealand and that an integrated solution is required to build a sustainable health workforce," said NZRGPN Chief Executive Dalton Kelly.

[Read more.](#)

[ALSO read about the Government announcement on rural health workforce](#)

Open letter to Members

The government has just announced its intentions on how it proposes - very generally - to approach the training and development of the rural health workforce.

You know that for some time now government has been considering two proposals that would significantly boost the way we train the rural health workforce. With recruitment, retention and the professional development of the current rural health workforce becoming increasingly challenging, this is a critically important issue for our members. As a result, it has been an issue that we have sought to influence and advance.

[Read more.](#)

[ALSO listen to RNZ report.](#)
[And read NZDoctor story.](#)

Changes will give greater access to Primary Care services

From 1 December 2018, several changes will take place to provide New Zealanders with greater access to primary care. The changes are part of Budget 2018 and include:

- Extending access to low-cost general practice visits for all Community Services Card (CSC) holders, including injury-related visits (ACC)
- Extending CSC eligibility to all people receiving accommodation supplements or who are tenants in social housing
- Extending zero-fee general practice visits and exemption from the standard prescription co-payment charge (usually \$5 per item) on subsidised prescription items for children under the age of 14. This includes after-hours services and injury-related visits (ACC).

To prepare for the new initiatives, general practices and PHOs are undertaking several actions and making some changes to business processes. Regular bulletins are being prepared to support implementation.

If you have any queries or need more information about the extended access to primary care services, please refer to the [online bulletins](#) updates for contact information or email primary_care@moh.govt.nz

Changes for Nurse Practitioners with Social Security Act 2018

With the new Social Security Act 2018, Nurse Practitioners will be able to provide medical information for a wider range of MSD services. Some terms we use will also change.

New Social Security Act 2018 - Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

- The Social Security Act 2018 comes into effect on 26 November. It replaces the Social Security Act 1964.
- The new Act won't change the amount and conditions of people's benefits and entitlements.
- The Act will introduce some new words such as:
 - "health condition" instead of "illness, sickness and medical condition"
 - "everyday functions" instead of "normal functions".

These two changes are aimed at making our language more inclusive.

[Read more.](#)

Increased vigilance needed for meningococcal disease

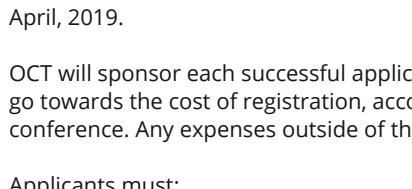
GPs and emergency departments nationwide have been asked to boost their vigilance for people seeking medical help with possible symptoms of meningococcal disease.

The Ministry of Health has warned all GPs and emergency departments about concerns over the rising numbers of cases in New Zealand and the need to give antibiotics without delay if the potentially-fatal disease was suspected.

There were 112 cases of meningococcal disease last year and 96 cases so far this year. The annual number of cases had increased steadily since 2014, when 45 cases were reported.

[Read more](#) OR [read about Meningococcal disease \(MoH\).](#)

OTAGO Community Trust offers assistance to attend conference 2019



Attention all nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, practice managers and senior administration staff in rural hospitals, rural general practices or a primary maternity unit within the Otago Region.

Otago Community Trust (OCT) is generously sponsoring up to 10 rural health professionals from the Otago region to attend the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's National Rural Health Conference in Blenheim from 4 - 7 April, 2019.

OCT will sponsor each successful applicant with up to \$1,000 including GST to go towards the cost of registration, accommodation and/or flights to attend the conference. Any expenses outside of this cannot be claimed.

Applicants must:

- Be currently employed as a nurse, midwife, allied health professional, practice manager or senior administrator in either a rural hospital, rural General Practice or primary maternity unit within the Otago Region
- As a condition of accepting the scholarship applicants must agree to supplying the Trust with a report, within one month of the conclusion of the conference
- Provide full receipts of registration, accommodation and/or flights in order to be reimbursed up to the value of \$1,000 including GST.

Application forms are available below and must be submitted to Charlotte Emery, Conference Innovators, PO Box 7191, Sydenham, Christchurch or by email to charlotte@conference.nz. Applications should be received no later than Monday, 11 February, 2019.

Successful applicants will be notified by email, no later than 5pm, Friday, 14 February, 2019. Details on how to submit receipts for reimbursement will be sent at this time.

To access the application form click [HERE](#).

The Marlborough Convention Centre and ASB Theatre are the venues for the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's 2019 conference.

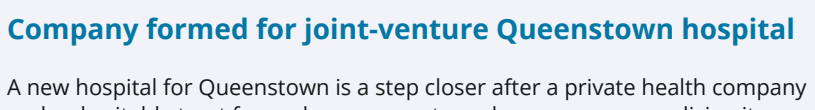
To be held from April 4 - 7 the conference will feature workshops, concurrent sessions and eight keynote speakers across three days concluding with a Members' political and breakfast forum on the morning of the fourth day.

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.
PICTURED: Exterior view of the ASB Theatre.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Doctors not consulted before decision to close their medical centre over Christmas

Doctors on a Hawke's Bay medical centre were stunned the local district health board decided to close the centre over Christmas without consulting staff or the community. (Stuff)

The closure means that for two weeks residents in Waipukurau and Waipawa will have to travel more than 50 kilometres to Hawke's Bay Hospital in Hastings to visit family requiring in-patient care.

[Read more.](#)

Company formed for joint-venture Queenstown hospital

A new hospital for Queenstown is a step closer after a private health company and a charitable trust formed a company to make progress on realising it. (ODT)

It is understood the Southern District Health Board has also agreed to fund public patients through the proposed independent surgical hospital.

[Read more.](#)

More GPs join SDHB scheme

The transition from doctors' general practices to Health Care Homes has picked up pace, with five more entering the Southern District Health Board's programme. (ODT)

Health Care Homes are modernised GP practices, with an emphasis on increased use of technology and improving access to services.

[Read more.](#)

Bay of Islands Hospital gets \$7.1m primary health centre injection from Government

A new health centre bringing GPs, outpatient clinics and dental services under one roof will be built in Kawakawa after an announcement of \$7.1 million in Government funding. (NZ Herald)

The outpatients and primary care facility will complete the rebuild of Bay of Islands Hospital, the first phase of which was opened in September with a price tag of \$14m.

[Read more.](#)

'Every second counts': Quick-thinking first responders defy the odds

May 25 was the day George Scott was pronounced clinically dead, but the quick-thinking actions of first responders meant the 62-year-old is alive to tell the story. (NZ Herald)

It was a Saturday morning when Scott jumped into his car at his home on the edges of Kaurapapaka and went to drive into the small village.

[Read more.](#)

Trust-funded centre on the cards

A Queenstown couple is planning to open a mental health centre to meet a gap they say the health board's not addressing. (Mountain Scene)

Osteopath Michelle Moynes and her partner, Dion Freeman, are in the process of starting a charitable trust to run mental health programmes in the resort.

[Read more.](#)

Waimate's new \$2m medical centre nears completion

A medical centre development in Waimate worth close to \$2 million is scheduled for completion before Christmas. (Timaru Herald)

It is one of multiple health projects the Waimate-based Rooney Group - consultants in this project - has potentially planned for the town.

[Read more.](#)

GP's move across town could help reduce region-wide registration backlog

Struggling to find a doctor in Blenheim? Well, a general practice is making moves to change that - literally. (Marlborough Express)

Scott Street Health is moving into the new town centre health hub, where it will operate as the Civic Family Health Centre from November 19.

The new surgery, in phase two of the health hub - the old civic theatre site, will also include a new purpose-built branch of Wairau Pharmacy, known as Civic Pharmacy.

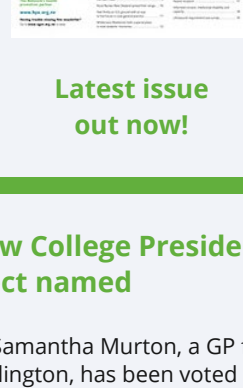
[Read more.](#)

Parliamentary tour for End of Life Choice bill comes to a close

After four months and more than 2000 oral submissions, the largest-ever parliamentary hearing has come to a close. (Stuff)

A tour by parliamentarians which travelled to 14 cities to hear the country's views on the End of Life Choice bill, which will legalise assisted death, ended on Monday (November 12).

[Read more.](#)



Latest issue out now!

New College President-elect named

Dr Samantha Murton, a GP from Wellington, has been voted President-elect of The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College), winning the Presidential election by a clear margin. Dr Murton is just the third female GP to become President in the College's 45-year history. The election was sparked by former-President [Dr Tim Malloy's resignation](#) in August, due to health issues. Dr Malloy had been College President since 2012.

[Read more.](#)

Not a member? Join the Network!

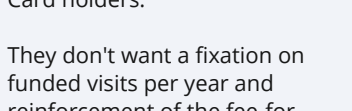
The Network is the only nationwide membership-based organisation in New Zealand representing the interests of rural general practice.

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)

NZMystery shrouds expected patient demand when 1 December rolls in

Health authorities don't like talking about utilisation rates when it comes to the 1 December rollout of the cheaper fees for Community Services Card holders.

They don't want a fixation on funded visits per year and reinforcement of the fee-for-service way of thinking, General Practice NZ principal advisor Fiona Thomson says.

[Read more.](#)

EVENTS

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month and sees the Lung Foundation New Zealand launch two resources: [Lung Cancer Patient Toolkit!](#) and Lung Cancer BREATHE poster [Know your symptoms!](#)

The Lung Cancer Patient Toolkit has been developed to empower patients and carers to navigate their cancer journey and make informed treatment decisions. The patient resources were developed by LFNZ's special advisory committee and in consultation with lung cancer patients.

The toolkit poster also contains a number of useful links, including a lung cancer patient support group and clinical trials.

RiSC applications now open

Applications are now open for the 2019 Rural Inter-professional Simulation Course (RiSC), a University of Otago Rural Postgraduate Programme to be held at the Ashburton Simulation Centre, May 13-15 and October 21-23.

RiSC is a course run by the University of Otago Rural Postgraduate Programme designed specifically for interprofessional rural hospital teams in New Zealand. It is an immersive three-day course that focuses on emergency and trauma care using highly realistic skills and simulations.

[Read more.](#)

LINKS

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

Health Workforce 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.