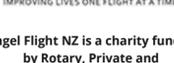


Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 30 November 2018



In this issue: Registration now open for Conference 2019 - Much loved Raglan doctor farewelled - Christmas arrangements for the Network office and much more...



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The Network's health promotion partner.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2019

Registration is now open for next year's National Rural Health Conference to be held at the Marlborough Convention Centre and ASB Theatre, Blenheim 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. A Gala Dinner and Awards Night, Welcome Function and several other dinners will again be features of the conference. To view the programme and register follow this [LINK](#).

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.

Keynotes

Amongst the exciting and influential keynote speakers headlining the conference are Dr of Psychiatry Hinemoa Elder (Fellow of the Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists) who will speak on "Isolation and connection in rural and remote mental health. An emergency for men", Dame Tariana Turia (former Maori Party founder/co-leader) who will speak on Maori health and wellbeing in rural NZ, Emeritus Professor Dr Paul Worley (Australia's first National Rural Health Commissioner), American remote medicine specialist Michelle Boltz, who will share her experience as Chief of Village Services for the North West Arctic Alaska, working together with the Alaska State Community Health Aide programme providing full spectrum primary care in remote villages across the state.

Other keynote sessions will be on Mycoplasma bovis (eradicating Mbovis and managing the impacts on our rural communities, presented by MPI), PRIME (what's been achieved and where to now following the establishment of the PRIME National Committee in 2017) and future student leaders in rural health, presented by NZRGPN student sub-committee Chair Jibi Kunnethean and deputy chair Ben Alsop-ten Hove. Also invited to speak at the conference opening is Minister of Health Dr David Clark. The MC will be Adrian Te Patu.

There will be 40 concurrent sessions covering five streams of medical/nursing, research, student, management and community. Topics include diabetes, prostate cancer, medicines adherence, cvd risk assessment, creating sustainable rural health models, Health Care Homes, depression and anxiety, navigating the immigration pathway, urban versus rural health disparities, Maori use of the health service, and technological innovations for mental health, to name a few.

There will be a day of pre-conference workshops on Thursday, April 4 with topics including nursing, alcohol, infant resuscitation, insulin management, rural hospital medicines update and research presentations. To view the programme click [HERE](#).

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



Much-loved doctor leaves after 17 years at West Coast Health

Raglan bid a fond farewell to much-loved doctor Fiona Bolden recently as she leaves West Coast Health to dedicate more time to her passion of rural health advocacy. (The Raglan Chronicle)

More than 50 people gathered at the bowling club to celebrate the impact Fiona has had on the community in the 17 years she was with the practice.

Local kaumatua Russell Riki spoke of the inclement weather as a sign of the community's tears over the departure of someone who they came to know as more than a doctor but also as a friend, sister, daughter and confidante.

Dr Bolden is the Deputy Chairperson of the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network.

[Read more.](#)

Christmas arrangements for the Network office

The Network office will be closed for the Christmas break from 4pm, Friday, December 21, 2018.

We will be back at work from Thursday, January 3, 2019.

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, December 17 (for payment on Wednesday, December 19, 2018). We will then do a pay run three weeks later and you will need to submit your timesheet and tax invoice on:

- Monday, January 7 (for payment on Wednesday, January 9, 2019).

News you can use

New agreement good news for rural surgical service

A mobile surgical service for rural areas is celebrating an extension of its contract, saying it will enable greater delivery of surgery solutions to rural New Zealand. (Newshub)

The New Zealand Mobile Surgical Service has an agreement in principle with the Ministry of Health to extend its operating contract from one to three years.

[Read more.](#)

Government confirms \$20m investment in new health centre for Westport

Health Minister Dr David Clark recently confirmed \$20m in Crown funding and the site for the new Buller Health Centre in Westport. (Beehive)

During a visit to Westport with West Coast Tasman MP Damien O'Connor, David Clark said the latest concept design for the new facility had been accepted, allowing detailed design work to proceed.

[Read more.](#)

Appointment of Chief Nursing Officer

The Ministry of Health has announced the appointment of Margareth Broodkoorn to the role of Chief Nursing Officer.

Margareth Broodkoorn has been the Director of Nursing and Midwifery at Northland District Health Board since 2010 and has over 30 years' experience in the health sector working in a range of clinical practice, leadership, management and education roles.

Margareth is of Ngāpuhi and Dutch whakapapa.

She is an executive member of the National Council of Māori Nurses, has had extensive involvement in the work of the Nursing Council of New Zealand, is a member of the Health Workforce New Zealand Nursing Advisory Group and sponsor of Ngā Manukura o Āpōpō, the national Maori nursing and midwifery workforce development programme.

She will join the Ministry in early February.

Virtual rural health school plan unaffected by Govt move

A proposal by the University of Otago and other providers to create a virtual school for rural health remains very much alive despite the Government killing off an alternative school of rural medicine this week.(ODT)

The lead article in this month's edition of the *New Zealand Medical Journal* featured a proposal, driven by the University of Otago, University of Auckland and Auckland University of Technology (AUT), for a virtual rural health campus.

[Read more.](#)

ALSO read:

Plans for a rural school of medicine may have been shut down but it hasn't been ruled out completely, Waikato University vice-chancellor, Neil Quigley, says. (Waikato Times)

[Read more.](#)

Health Minister says rural health needs more than a new med school training GPs

Rural health care actions 'step in right direction'

Being on marae is a protective factor against dementia - researcher

Pākehā and non-Māori dementia clinicians don't understand the importance of spirituality in how they care for Māori, says a University of Auckland Professor. (RNZ)

Makarena Dudley, lead researcher of the Kaumātuaanga o te Toro project, said clinicians need to hold sessions which were wairua (spirituality) enhancing.

[Read more.](#)

Lance O'Sullivan: NZ health system is "f*****"

Former New Zealander of the Year Dr Lance O'Sullivan has threatened to walk away from medicine if the health system doesn't radically change.(RNZ)

[Read more.](#)

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 illness, sickness and:
- "health condition" instead of "illness, sickness and the medical condition"
- "everyday functions" instead of "normal functions".

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

[Read more.](#)

\$45m boost for South Island connectivity

The Government is investing \$44.8 million from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) to improve digital connectivity in the West Coast and Southland, Regional Economic Development Minister Shane Jones announced this week. (Beehive)

The investment will extend and improve internet access and mobile coverage across the entire area, including developing broadband infrastructure in and around Haast and Milford Sound..

[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 \(login to NZ Doctor required\)](#)

RNZCGP chief executive Helen Morgan-Banda resigns

The RNZCGP board has announced that chief executive Helen Morgan-Banda has resigned.

Ms Morgan-Banda has been on so-called 'gardening leave' since September after internal ructions at the college following the resignation due to ill health of former president Tim Malloy.

[Read more.](#)

Devlin's overtures to primary care in a bid to save lives in Tairāwhiti

Heart Foundation medical director Gerry Devlin is taking his cardiology skills into primary and community care in a new role at Hauora Tairāwhiti.

Dr Devlin has joined the east coast DHB as Gisborne Hospital's first on-site cardiologist, but will spend part of his time outside the confines of the secondary system.

[Read more.](#)

GPs under pressure as Northlanders demand protection against MenW

The outbreak of deadly meningococcal W in Northland is causing alarm in the community, with general practices inundated with parents seeking vaccinations for their children

[Read more.](#)

EVENTS

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

Ministry of Health online bulletins, click [here](#).

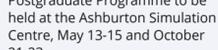
Leaning on Fence Posts, Otago University rural research blog, click [here](#).

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](#).



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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.