



Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 2 November 2018



In this issue: Nurses or midwives could carry out abortions, suggests Law Commission • Most Kiwis support some form of euthanasia: Otago study • Many kaumātua feel isolated – report and much more...



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NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2019



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](#).

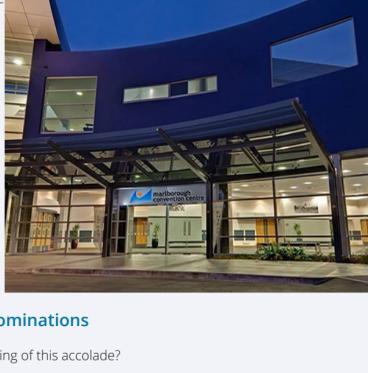
The Marlborough Convention Centre and ASB Theatre are the venues for the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network's 2019 conference.

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 Marlborough Convention Centre.



Peter Snow Memorial Award 2019 – final call for nominations

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.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

Nurses or midwives could carry out abortions, suggests Law Commission

A major report proposing simplifying and decriminalising abortion law is also backing a call that nurses could safely carry out early abortions. (Nursing Review)

The Law Commission presented its 300 page briefing to the Justice Minister Andrew Little late last week that outlines three legal model proposals for decriminalising abortion and repealing the requirement for two doctors to certify that a woman met the criteria for an abortion.

[Read more.](#)

Most Kiwis support some form of euthanasia: Otago study

Most New Zealanders support some form of euthanasia or assisted dying, a review of 20 years' research into Kiwis' attitudes to euthanasia by University of Otago researchers reveals. (ODT)

The group of Otago researchers reviewed existing research investigating New Zealanders' attitudes to euthanasia or assisted dying over the past 20 years.

[Read more.](#)

Many kaumātua feel isolated – report

With the elderly Māori population expected to climb - a new report shows there's still a taboo for Māori around the care of their kaumātua. (RNZ)

The Kaumātua Report focuses on the concerns and aspirations of kaumātua who use Whānau Ora services.

[Read more.](#)

Meet the young woman hoping to be the Far North's first female Māori GP

Growing up in the Far North Alamaine Tahitahi-Matiu saw the financial stress a trip to the doctor could put on whānau first hand. (Stuff)

Her home town is near Kaitia, which has a relatively high health deprivation. Some people in the teenager's community can't afford to get help with health problems.

[Read more.](#)

Surgeons' complaints bring review

Southland Hospital's endoscopy service is to undergo external review, after surgeons wrote to the Southern District Health Board saying they had lost confidence in the "sub-standard" service. (ODT)

[Read more.](#)

Southern's Health Care Home expands

Even more practices in the Southern district will soon benefit from a new model of primary care services as five additional general practices begin the process of becoming Health Care Home (HCH) practices - including the first GP practice in Invercargill. (Scoop)

Waihopai Health Services in Invercargill, Broadway Medical Centre in Dunedin, Cromwell's Junction Health, Wanaka Medical Centre, and Aspiring Medical Centre in Wanaka today join the HCH programme.

[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](#).

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

GP jousts with politician in public debate over euthanasia bill

There's still a lot of public debate needed on assisted dying, says Northland GP Chris Reid after squaring off against ACT leader David Seymour in a debate over euthanasia.

Dr Reid says he was asked to argue against Mr Seymour's End of Life Choice Bill at a public meeting in Kerikeri earlier this month, which he was happy to do.

[Read more.](#)

Health care homes take root in Nelson Marlborough as first five practices launch

Five practices at the top of the South Island have embarked on their health care home journey.

Nelson Marlborough DHB made its final selection for the first tranche of health care home general practices last month, according to an emailed statement from the DHB's models of care programme director Bridget Jolly.

[Read more.](#)

On-call GP service withdrawn in Central Otago as staff crisis bites

Central Otago GPs have withdrawn overnight cover in response to concerns about staff health and safety.

The interim measure follows four months of talks between provider organisation Central Otago After Hours, and Southern DHB, WellSouth PHO and Central Otago Health Services Ltd, which runs Dunstan Hospital.

[Read more.](#)

New GP provider and greater DHB oversight in Kaeo after damning report

The Far North town of Kaeo is to get a new provider of general practice services after intervention by Northland DHB. The DHB has helped in to remodel health services in the district after a damning report into local provider, Whangaroa Health Services Trust, recommended major changes.

[Read more.](#)

PHARMAC ADVISORY

Stock supply issues on paracetamol and diclofenac

Pharmac has been informed by the supplier of paracetamol 500mg tablets blister pack (Pharmacare brand) that they are not going to be able to supply the current volumes of this product to the New Zealand market. This means there will be a stock shortage of the 500 mg paracetamol in blister packs.

[Read more.](#)

Diclofenac 75 mg tablets

There is going to be short supply of diclofenac 75 mg tablet during December 2018. PHARMAC has removed stat dispensing (three months all-at-once) to extend the current supply in the market. However, there is still likely to be a shortage until the next batch of diclofenac 75 mg is available in New Zealand. Pharmac asks you to consider prescribing alternate strengths of diclofenac or an alternative funded non-steroidal anti-inflammatory for patients during this time to help ensure there is limited impact for patients.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact PHARMAC at enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz or call 0800 660 050.

THAT'S INTERESTING

UK doctors can now prescribe cannabis to patients

Doctors will be able to prescribe cannabis products to patients in the UK following the landmark move by the Government. (NZ Herald)

The Home Secretary announced last month that cannabis could be prescribed from November 1 for medicinal use in England, Scotland and Wales.

[Read more.](#)

One in five young Kiwis not using condoms the first time they have sex

One in five Kiwis are not using condoms the first time they have sex, a survey has found. (NZ Herald)

While it was an improvement since the 1970s, when less than 40 per cent were using condoms in their first sexual encounters, health officials said the findings reinforced the need for greater condom use.

[Read more.](#)



Latest issue out now!

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.



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

The next new role in general practice gathers momentum, but some sceptical

New Zealand's tiny group of physician associates has US and NZMA support in seeking to have their profession regis-tered and regulated.

The New Zealand Nurses Organisation, meanwhile, questions why the role is needed "when we already have a workforce with those skills".

[Read more.](#)

Tribunal hears GP, PHO systems get in the way of better health for Māori

General practice as a private business has been cited as a difficulty in ensuring adequate access to primary care.

"[T]he 'doorway' to New Zealand's health system – primary health care – is still located in the private for-profit sector, and financial barriers remain," said Otago University public health doctor and Māori health researcher Peter Crampton in evidence before the Waitangi Tribunal.

[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.](#)

2018 New Zealand Melanoma Summit

November 2-3, Auckland.

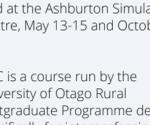
Join GPs, nurses, pathologists, dermatologists, surgeons, oncologists, researchers and health promoters who are passionate about reducing the incidence and impact of melanoma in New Zealand at this two-day multi-disciplinary meeting.

The programme features experts recognised internationally for their contribution to melanoma control, as well as workshops on prevention, 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 basics 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 further 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 or 021 472 556.