



## RURAL ROUND-UP REPORT

Period ending: 6 July 2017

### ARHEN NEWS

- **DIRECTOR APPOINTED AT DEAKIN RURAL HEALTH**

I am delighted to announce that **Dr Vin Versace has been appointed as the new Director of our University Department of Rural Health, Deakin Rural Health.** In addition, Vin will be appointed as an Associate Professor in the School of Medicine. He will commence his substantive role on 2nd July 2017. Vin is a long time resident of western Victoria. He moved to Warrnambool in 2000 to complete his BSc and stayed on to do his honours (population genetics) and then his PhD (water resources). In late 2012 he joined the Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health as a biostatistician. This marked his move into population and public health research across a breadth of projects. His research ranges from NHMRC-funded projects evaluating lifestyle interventions for diabetes prevention, through to smaller local projects focused on building research capacity – and everything in between. Working in a UDRH over an extended period has exposed Vin to all aspects of the department and he is well placed to take Deakin Rural Health forward. Vin has been acting Director of Deakin Rural Health since early 2017 and has performed that role with distinction. Many of you will know Vin already, and will know that he has a strong vision for Deakin Rural Health. He is passionate in his focus on maximising opportunities for rural allied health, medical and nursing student placements in Western Victoria, and also strong in his plans for collaboration across the Faculty and the University in growing rural health research. He is also a delightful, and thoughtful colleague and we look forward to working with him. *Professor Jon Watson, Dean, School of Medicine, Faculty of Health, Deakin University.*

### MEDIA

- **RURAL DOCTORS HELP BUILD INDIGENOUS DOCTOR WORKFORCE**

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) celebrates the achievements of Indigenous Doctors and medical students and recognises their important contribution to providing culturally sensitive health care to Indigenous communities. RDAA, in partnership with the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) and with generous sponsorship from MDA National, offers a Bursary for Indigenous medical students to assist them to complete a rural or remote placement, or to carry out research to benefit Indigenous health care. SEE ATTACHMENT RDAA.

- **MID NORTH COAST TRAINING HUB**

Work is progressing on the establishment of the Mid North Coast Regional Training Hub which will provide young doctors the ability to stay, study, work and live along the Mid North Coast. SEE ATTACHMENT HUB.

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- **MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG DOCTORS**

Twenty six new Regional Training Hubs will create more opportunities for young doctors to stay, study, work and live in rural and regional Australia, rather than returning to cities for all of their postgraduate training. SEE ATTACHMENT GILLESPIE

- **NRHA - PAPER ON NEED FOR A NEW RURAL HEALTH STRATEGY**

The National Rural Health Alliance has been leading advocacy to the Government that it is time to develop a new Rural and Remote Health Strategy, together with a fully funded Implementation Plan. In developing its thoughts on the need for a new Strategy and its contents, the Alliance is developing a series of discussion papers, with the first now available – considering the reasons why we need a new Strategy and what has been achieved under the 2011-12 Strategy. SEE ATTACHMENT NRHA PAPER

- **NRHA - NEW STRATEGIC PLAN**

The National Rural Health Alliance's new Strategic Plan has been released and spans the period 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2019. It is a high-level document to set directions, priorities and key areas of activities over the coming two years. It also includes measures of success and effectiveness, identified as process, impact and health outcomes. See

[http://ruralhealth.org.au/sites/default/files/documents/NRHA\\_Strategic-Plan.pdf](http://ruralhealth.org.au/sites/default/files/documents/NRHA_Strategic-Plan.pdf)

- **NRHA – SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**

<http://ruralhealth.org.au/advocacy/current-focus-areas/social-determinants-health>

- **NHMRC RESEARCH TRACKER**

<http://nhmrccommunications.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/A151E928CDD2F8342540EF23F30FEDED/328160AC8CA94BA89E794568BD214575>

- **NEW INDIGENOUS RESEARCH CONSORTIUM IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA**

A unique consortium bringing together Aboriginal community controlled health services and leading medical researchers will spearhead efforts to close the health gap in Central Australia. SEE ATTACHMENT WYATT.

- **NEW AIHW PUBLICATION - HOSPITAL RESOURCES**

In 2015-16, there were 701 public hospitals in Australia accounting for about two-thirds (61,000) of all hospital beds. There were 630 private hospitals with 33,100 hospital beds. Total recurrent expenditure on public hospital services was about \$64 billion. About 57% of this was for admitted patient care, 18% for outpatient care, 10% for emergency care services, 2% for teaching, training and research and 13% for all other services. See: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129559916>

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