

RURAL ROUND-UP REPORT

Period ending: 8 June 2017

ARHEN NEWS

- The new ARHEN Service Learning Staff Network has met for the first time. The network is chaired by Martin Jones (UniSA URDH) with Deb Jones (Broken Hill UDRH) as deputy chair. The network will meet quarterly. This means there are now 6 Staff Networks.
- Legislation to establish the new National Rural Health Commissioner is listed to go before the Senate on Tuesday 13 June and is expected to be passed unopposed.

MEDIA

- **HEALTH ATLAS FINDINGS CONFIRM NEED FOR NEW RURAL HEALTH STRATEGY – NRHA**

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/media-release/health-atlas-findings-confirm-need-new-rural-health-strategy/>

- **MENTAL HEALTH INVESTMENT NEEDED IN THE BUSH – NRHA**

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/media-release/access-mental-health-services-key-turn-around-poor-outcomes-bush>

- **MENTAL HEALTH IN RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES – RFDS report**

<https://nacchocommunique.com/2017/06/06/naccho-aboriginal-mental-health-download-report-mental-health-in-remote-and-rural-communities/>

- **THE ROLE OF THE RURAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER – Gordon Gregory**

<https://croakey.org/>

- **ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AN ISSUE FOR RURAL/REMOTE COMMUNITIES**

<https://croakey.org/antibiotic-resistance-a-health-hazard-for-rural-and-remote-communities/>

- **KPI'S FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH CARE**

This fourth national report on the national Key Performance Indicators (nKPIs) data collection is based on data from more than 240 primary health care organisations that received funding from the Australian Government Department of Health to provide services primarily to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Information is presented for 22 'process-of-care' and 'health outcome' indicators for June 2016, which focus on maternal and child health, preventative health, and chronic disease management. The report shows continuous improvements for the majority of indicators. See:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129559276>



- **A BETTER MBS FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS**

The clinician-led Taskforce that is reviewing more than 5,700 items covered by the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) to see if they are up-to-date, today released its third round of recommendations for public consultation. Professor Bruce Robinson, chair of the MBS Review Taskforce commissioned by the Federal Government, said the MBS review is aimed at ensuring that subsidised procedures covered by the MBS are up-to-date, clinically effective, provide value for the healthcare system and support the best quality care for patients. "Consultation with clinicians, consumer representatives, and the Australian public on committee recommendations is a critical step prior to the Taskforce delivering final recommendations to the Government," Professor Robinson said. SEE ATTACHMENT REVIEW.

- **RURAL DOCTORS WELCOME MEDICARE CHANGES**

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) has welcomed recommendations from the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce that MBS billing items for 'urgent' afterhours services should no longer be available to afterhours Medical Deputising Services (MDSs). SEE ATTACHMENT RDAA.