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Network Dates:

Reference group meeting –
12/02/2007

Newsletter submissions:

Submissions to be emailed to
sharris@bendigohealth.org.au

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

The Reference Group for the Loddon Mallee Allied Health Network has recently undergone some changes. Wendy Millar has left due to a change in position and we welcome Jenny Harriott (Manager, Rural Health Team, Bendigo Health) and Brooke Ryan (Speech Pathology representative, Mildura Base Hospital). Thanks to Wendy for her contribution to the network.

As this is the last newsletter for 2006 I wish to thank all those who have supported the network this year. 2007 will see the running of the 4th conference (more information below), more visits throughout the region and the chance to identify and follow up those issues that are important to Loddon Mallee allied health professionals.

If you are currently planning professional development programs for 2007, please consider sharing information with your colleagues across the region.

Best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas for all

Sally Harris

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is for the use of allied health professionals within the Loddon Mallee region to communicate what is happening within the area. If you wish to contribute or have a suggestion of a topic you would like to see covered please contact me (details above).

LODDON MALLEE ALLIED HEALTH NETWORK DATABASE

If you know of an allied health professional who may like to receive information from the network please forward the network details to them. They can contact the coordinator and be added to the database to receive future information.

WEBSITE

www.alliedhealthnetwork.org.au

The network website has been running well for the past couple of months with no reported problems. Don't forget to add the website to your internet favorites list and to register on the website. Registering will assist colleagues and others to know who to refer to and who to contact re a specialty area of practice.

The **EMPLOYMENT** page is regularly being updated to include new positions. If you would like a job vacancy advertised on the website please follow the prompts on the Employment page or contact Sally.

2007 CONFERENCE

Planning is underway for the 2007 conference: ALLIED HEALTH: CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES to be held on Monday 19/3/07 at the Quality Inn Port of Echuca.

You should all have received the Call for Papers flyer - let me know if you haven't or access it via the website. This conference offers the opportunity to share the great work you have done and to gain experience with presenting. Prizes will be awarded for Best first time presenter and Best poster. Closing date for submission of abstracts is 19/01/2007.

Thank you to the conference planning committee - Casey James, Paul Manson, Michelle Matthews, Helen McBurney, Justine O'Bree, and Kellie Stagg - for their work so far. If you have any suggestions, comments or queries re the conference please contact Sally.

2007 RURAL ALLIED HEALTH POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

In 2007 scholarships are available to support Allied Health Professionals commencing postgraduate studies.

Background

The Rural Allied Health Postgraduate Scholarship Program supports rural allied health practitioners who have demonstrated their involvement in, and commitment to, rural allied health practice to improve their skills and expertise through postgraduate studies. The financial support provided to practitioners through the scholarship program aims to assist them in meeting the additional expenses often borne by rural practitioners accessing education.

Scholarship Details

Postgraduate scholarships are available for permanent or contract employees of a public sector health service (RRMA 3-7) who intend to commence an eligible postgraduate course in 2007. Scholarships will be granted for post graduate studies in either an allied health specific discipline or non-discipline specific courses that relate to their employment, this may include health management, health promotion and public health studies.

The following allied health professions are eligible to apply for a scholarship:

- Audiologists
- Dieticians/Nutritionists
- Hospital Pharmacists
- Physiotherapists
- Podiatrists
- Psychologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Orthoptists
- Medical Physicists
- Orthotists and Prosthetists
- Radiation Therapists
- Nuclear Medicine Technologists
- Medical Imaging Technologists
- Medical Physicists
- Speech Pathologists
- Social Workers
- Medical Laboratory Scientists
- Biomedical Science

The level of funding for Postgraduate Scholarships varies according to the level of qualification being attained:

PhD - \$10,000

Masters- \$7,500

Graduate Diploma - \$5,000

Scholarships are to be paid at the commencement of postgraduate study.

Application forms and guidelines for 2007 scholarships are available from the VHA website www.vha.org.au under Awards/Scholarships.

Applications close 15 FEBRUARY 2007.

For further information contact Sara Duncan or Lucia Cooper at VHA on 8606 4600 or email queries to scholarships@vha.org.au.