



All of us at the Institute wish you a safe and happy Christmas and trust that those working through this busy time have breaks planned in the near future.



The Year that was 2007

As 2007 draws to a close many of the challenges for the rural health sector remain unresolved. Most critically little progress has been made nationally in addressing the 24 hour provision of care. While local solutions are occurring these are evolving in the absence of a generic framework.

Some progress but no outcomes have been achieved by the rural ranking score working party and so the discontent and inequity continue between DHBs and individual colleagues.

Innovative and changed models of service delivery are increasing with rural health professionals extending scopes of practice and networking with others to both sustain and enhance services.

On a brighter note, congratulations to NZ Locums—feedback from the sector is very positive about the increasing ease of accessing locums and also the long term locum placements that are occurring.

Post Graduate Diploma Rural/Primary Health Nursing

18 nurses have graduated this December. Congratulations to you all. 56 nurses have completed PG Diploma studies with a number carrying on in masters level study. 22 nurses will advance to year 2 study in the final CTA nationally funded programme. Nurses are urged to contact their local DHB to seek support to undertake studies. There is dedicated rural focused nurses funding available.

Allied Health Assistants

The Institute completed a study earlier in the year on the feasibility of a role—Allied Health Assistant in the rural health delivery model. Findings were that the model is implementable providing a number of Scope of Practice issues are addressed. For further information on this report go to our website www.nzirh.org.nz.

Online Education

In conjunction with The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand and rural schools, the Institute is offering online foundation education to rural New Zealanders. The pilot of this service is a Certificate in Computing Studies and some 160 adult students enrolled in the pilot are now well into their studies. The programme will be offered again in 2008. During the year business studies papers will become available. For further information contact glen@nzirh.org.nz.

E Library—Ministry of Health Rural Innovation Funding

Over the next two months we will be collecting information from the rural sector on innovative practices occurring in rural health services. Should you have something to share please consider filling out the one page information sheet on our website, the library is planned to open in March 2008 and be a resource for all in the rural health sector.

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The Institute is a non-profit charitable trust with the objective of promoting rural health in New Zealand. It does this by working with rural communities and health professionals to undertake research, benchmark best practice, provide resource and education and support implementation of models of health care that reflect local need.

If you would like to be involved please contact us.

The New Zealand Institute of Rural Health is grateful for the sponsorship and support of the Gallagher Group.

