



ARHEN

Australian Rural Health Education Network

Education and training for future primary health care.

Dennis Pashen, Dir. MICRRH
Australian Rural Health Education Network
(ARHEN)
ADGP National Forum 2003

The Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN)

- Established 2001-02 to link and support eleven University Departments/Schools of Rural Health across Australia
- New Chairperson is A/Prof Ann Larson, Geraldton.



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ARHEN's vision

“To strengthen and add value to the UDRH program by

- Co-ordination
- Development of shared strategic directions
- Internal and external networks
- Collaboration between the UDRHs, the Commonwealth, and other key stakeholders.”





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The UDRH program

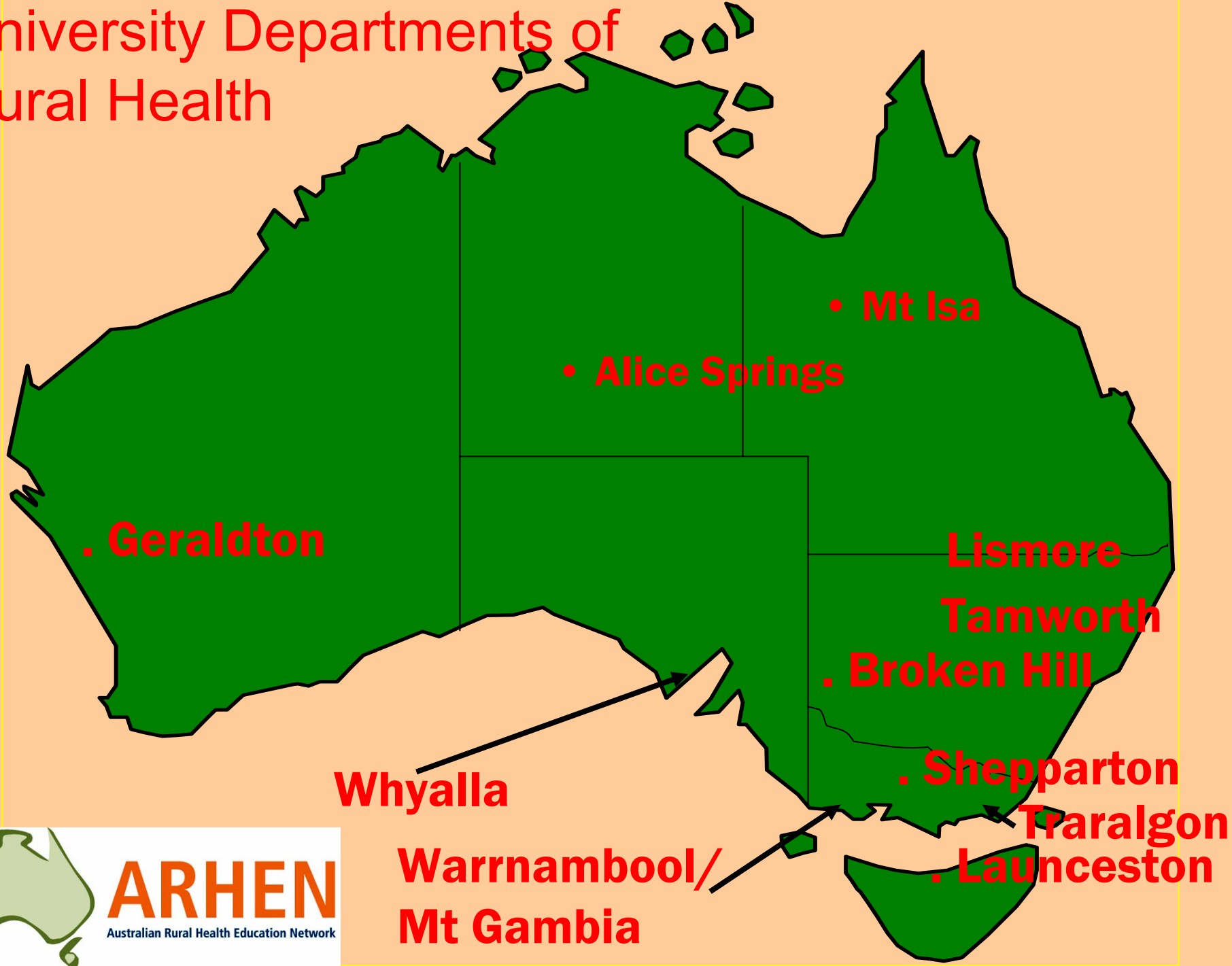
- Based on a common set of objectives and operating principles
- Importance of regional relevance
- Remoteness from main campus
- Diversity in implementation
 - University and health service affiliations
 - Organisational arrangements
 - Mix of teaching, research and service roles

ARHEN membership

- **11 University Departments of Rural Health throughout Australia**
- **1 Qld, WA, Tasmania, NT**
- **2 Victoria, SA**
- **3 NSW**
- **Core funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing under contract to Universities**



University Departments of Rural Health



The UDRH program

Workforce support and development.

- Multidisciplinary Education and training opportunities in rural and remote areas
- Continuing education and support for rural and remote health professionals

Research and service development

- Support basic academic infrastructure in rural and remote centres



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UDRH Directors





Centre for Remote Health, Alice Springs

Some current ARHEN activities (1)

Development of ARHEN's communications infrastructure, eg

- website at www.arhen.org.au,
- quarterly newsletter,
- relationships with other organisations,
- networks of UDRH staff across the country.





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Clinical training, Broken Hill UDRRH



Some current ARHEN activities (2)

Collaborative Research

“General Practice/Hospital Integration in Rural and Remote Australia”

- Commonwealth-funded project
- Document experiences of rural and remote Australians who are transferred long distances for hospitalisation
- Benefits to flow - improve service integration.

ARHEN manages, co-ordinates the study, supporting researchers from all 11 member UDRHs who will be involved in case studies.



Mt Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health

Some current ARHEN activities (3)

Review and evaluation of the UDRH program nationally, including

- Participated in the national review of the UDRH program;
- With the Commonwealth developed nationally consistent performance measures for the program
 - Like comparing apples to prophylactic devices



Student accommodation at St Mary's (UDRH Tasmania)



Some current ARHEN activities (4)

- John Flynn Scholarship Scheme
- The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, which administers the JFSS, has formed a partnership relationship with ARHEN and UDRHs to implement this scheme.
- Advocacy to promote a funded national strategic approach to rural and remote health research



A student health careers day



Priorities for the coming year (1)

- Activities to promote nationally co-ordinated effort on education and training, and research, relating to rural and remote health.

ARHEN will hold a national workshop on these issues in 2004.

Targeted work on longitudinal student tracking, and on student satisfaction with rural health placements.



WHO Towards Unity for Rural Health Conference Mt Isa 2003.



Priorities for the coming year (2)

Managing the implementation of the **National Rural Health Network's Graduate Assistance and Partnerships (GAP)** program.

The GAP program aims to:

- overcome isolation for new graduates intending to practice in rural or remote areas
- provide support to those new graduates who choose and are able to practise in a rural or remote location immediately after graduation.



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UDRH Indigenous Staff Network



NAIDOC Week – Mt Isa



Areas of common interest with Rural Clinical Schools

1. Promotion of Rural and Remote Medical Attachments as a strategy for recruitment
2. Vertically integrated Medical Education and Training
3. Rural, Remote and Indigenous Research
4. Evaluation, longitudinal tracking of students



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Bouliia Camel Races- Indentured student labour.



Relationships with Divisional Organisations

Areas of Common interest: -

- Workforce support and development
 - Recruitment & Retention
 - PDP/CME
- Population Health
- Indigenous Health
- Research, PHC RED (7 of 11 UDRHs)



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Relationships with Divisional Organisations

Areas of Common interest: -

- Sustainable models of health service delivery
- Innovative models of service delivery
- Development of a research base to influence governmental policy
- Community development in health



Relationships with Divisional Organisations

Areas of Common interest: -

- Educational Curricula relating to the needs of Divisional membership and staff.e.g.
 - Population Health Education for Clinicians
 - Master in Remote Health (CRH, Alice Springs)



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Relationships with Professional Bodies

Areas of Common interest: -

- **Regional Training Consortia**
 - Vocational Training for rural GP
- **ACRRM**
 - JFSS, Rural and Remote Medical Attachments
 - Junior House Officer Training
 - Vocational Training for Rural and Remote Practice
 - Fellowship pathways appropriate for Rural Practice
 - Vertically Integrated Rural & Remote Curriculum
 - PDP



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Relationships with Rural Organisations

Areas of Common interest: -

- **National Rural Health Alliance**
 - ARHEN sits on Board and through this reports to AHMAC
- **Local Rural Communities**
 - Community input and participation is a contractual obligation
- **Indigenous Bodies**
 - ACCHS relationships are contractual obligations



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Questions?