

12th

NSW



rural

mental health

CONFERENCE

Mental Health – Who Cares?

CONFERENCE

03 – 05 December 2007

Soldier's Club Conference Centre,
Batemans Bay, NSW

INVITATION

The Conference Committee for the 12th NSW Rural Mental Health Conference warmly invite you to participate in our annual state Conference which is taking place in Batemans Bay, on the NSW South Coast, from 03 – 05 December. The Conference is an initiative of the Department of Health's Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office' and the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health. The theme for the 2007 Conference is 'Mental Health – Who Cares?'

We welcome all proposals for the conference including papers for plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, workshops, poster sessions and symposia. Of particular interest are papers that describe research, innovation and practice for rural and remote mental health delivery across the service spectrum. New for this year is the opportunity to present short vignettes which offer first-time presenters a forum to share their own personal stories or clinical experiences.

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

The Conference attracts between 160 – 250 delegates from a wide range of areas, including: clinicians, managers and policy makers working in rural mental health provision. Past conferences have been held in Orange (2006), Tweed Heads (2005) and Armidale (2004). Special features of the Conference include a trade display section and a social program which provide participants the opportunity to network with colleagues and develop professional contacts.

The 2007 conference provides a forum to showcase initiatives, report on projects, outline challenges and present new plans designed to deliver the latest information and updated practices to rural Australia.

THEME AND TOPICS

There are a number of topics which build on the conference theme, 'Mental Health – Who Cares?' Subjects may be broad ranging, but could include a focus on practice, education, research or innovation in any area to do with the conference theme and topics. It is proposed that each stream should focus on rural services and wherever possible, on the patient journey. Examples are given under each topic heading.

CRITICAL DATES

Abstract Submission Deadline:
15 June 2007

Presenter Notification:
27 July 2007

'Early' Registration Deadline:
5 October 2007

PRIZES

This year, prizes will be awarded for the 'Best Presentation,' 'Best Poster' and the 'Best First-time Presenter.'

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'Mental Health – Who Cares?'

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit abstract online: Visit the Program page on the conference website at www.rmhconference.com and click on the 'Submit abstract' link. Each presenter will need to create a user ID, and will be issued with a password. Please follow the prompts in submitting your abstracts, and have a brief biography available to be entered along with your abstract. Once your abstract has been submitted you will receive automatic receipt confirmation advice and will be able to modify important details, such as changes with contact details. If you have any problems submitting your abstract online, please contact the Conference Managers by phoning 02 6650 9800 or emailing info@eastcoastconferences.com.au

Abstract Submission Deadline:
15 JUNE 2007

REVIEW OF ABSTRACTS

All abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Scientific Committee; all submitting authors will be notified of the results of the review of abstracts by 27 July 2007.

Accepted papers (abstracts) will appear in the 'Conference Booklet' along with author/s contact details and email address, which will be available during the Conference. Full papers will be posted on the conference website at the conclusion of the conference.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For any general queries: Jayne Hindle,
East Coast Conferences
jayne@eastcoastconferences.com.au
T (02) 6650 9800
PO Box 848, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

For specific queries on scientific content for papers, sessions or other proposals, please contact: Mike Bird
Mike.Bird@gsahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Conference website:
www.rmhconference.com

Conference topics include:

- **Who Cares in an Emergency?**
eg Police, Ambulance, GPs
- **Who Cares for Co-morbid Conditions?**
eg D&A
- **Who Cares for our Youth?**
eg Headspace etc
- **Who Cares for our Clinicians?**
eg Workforce recruitment/ retention
- **Who Cares on the Frontline?**
eg Primary Care, GPs
- **Who Always Cares?**
eg recovery integration, family & carers
- **Who Cares for our Families and Rural Communities?**
eg drought, family and carer support
- **Who Cares for our Elderly?**
eg BASIS, BPSD and CADE
- **Who Cares about the 'Big Picture'?**
eg policy makers etc

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

- Include the title, author/s, institution and position (underline the name of the presenting author) plus full contact details, including phone, postal address and email.
- Be in MS Word format, maximum of 250 words.
- Abstract contents should include methods, results and findings (if appropriate), and overview of the key points of the paper. The abstract should appropriately reflect the content and intent of the paper to be presented. Only common term abbreviations should be used; references should be used sparingly.
- Indicate your preference for type of presentation: oral presentation, workshop, poster, symposium or vignette. Note: All oral presentation times will be approximately 20 minutes including time for Q & A at the conclusion; vignettes will be approximately 10 minutes.

GENERAL POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

- All abstracts must contain original work.
- The presenting author must submit the abstract.
- The presenting author (all formats) will be required to register and pay for the Conference to ensure their abstract is included in the final program.
- All abstracts must be prepared according to the guidelines provided above. Incomplete or incorrect submissions will be returned to the author and must be resubmitted immediately in the correct format to be considered for inclusion in the program.

- Abstracts will be published exactly as they are accepted; there will be no opportunity for further amendments.
- It is the responsibility of the presenting author to ensure that the abstract is submitted correctly and received by the Conference Managers. The Conference Managers will not be held responsible for abstract submissions not received.

Poster Presentation details

- Size should not exceed 1.0m by 1.4m
- Presenters must provide mounting for posters (adhesive Velcro tabs recommended)
- Presenters will be required to attend their posters (time indicated by Conference Manager) to answer questions from delegates
- Posters should be clear and able to be read from at least one metre distance (minimum 28pt font size)
- The title, name of author/s, institution and city should be included
- The poster should contain: study objective, methods, results and conclusion/s
- Author/s may provide handout material relating to their poster

Full Papers

Full papers (no slide presentations) for all oral and poster presentations will be posted on the Conference website at the conclusion of the Conference. It is requested that all presenters submit their full paper (or text version of their presentation) to the Conference Managers either before or during the Conference. Further information will be given to presenters upon confirmation of their acceptance.

Workshops

Limited space is available in the Conference Program for Workshop presentations which are generally scheduled for the first afternoon, 03 December. All workshop proposals should be submitted to the Conference Managers by 15 June 2007. Proposals should clearly indicate the content of discussion and target audience.

Vignettes

As a new initiative to encourage greater opportunities to share information, space will be allocated in this year's program for short, informal presentations and/or discussions. Anyone interested in presenting a 10 minute vignette should contact the Conference Managers in writing by 15 June 2007. (A vignette is a brief description of an incident or story.)