

Health Works

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Health Workforce
Queensland



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CEO Message

I recently attended the National Rural Health Conference in Hobart and one of the keynote plenary sessions that stayed with me long after I got back to Queensland was Rheumatic Heart Disease: Successes and Challenges by Dr Bo Remenyi a Paediatric Cardiologist. You can see her presentation [here](#).

Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is the leading cause of cardiovascular health inequality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Forty-one years is the average age of death for Aboriginal people with RHD and Aboriginal people are 122 times more likely to have RHD than non-Indigenous Australians. The incidence of RHD is 100% preventable!

Dr Remenyi stated that rheumatic heart disease can start as a sore throat in children and end with open heart surgery, stroke, heart failure and premature death only years later. As such, RHD can be an appropriate marker to determine the level of social disadvantage within a population and, most importantly, their ability to access health care early on. Dr Remenyi shared the heartbreaking case of an Indigenous child with RHD, who was unlikely to reach 25 years of age...showing that some residents in Australia are experiencing third world problems in a first world country.

The [World Health Organisation's](#) (WHO) [World Health Day](#) was on Thursday 7 April, not long after the National Rural Health Conference, and the 2019 message echoes Dr Remenyi's point on access to health care.

Universal health coverage is the WHO's number one goal and this year WHO are promoting that message – "The key to achieving it is ensuring that everyone can

obtain the care they need, when they need it, right in the heart of the community." This too is our goal for residents in remote and rural parts of Queensland, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Primary health care can address the vast majority of people's health needs throughout their lives and is a critical foundation for universal health coverage. In comparison to other countries, Australia has a comprehensive health care system for its people. But there are still barriers to accessing primary health care services in remote and rural parts of Australia.

Over the next couple of months Australia faces an uncertain political environment with the upcoming election. It is hoped that the future Federal Government of Australia and its decision makers heed the message from WHO that "Primary health care is the most efficient and effective way to achieve health for all. But too often, it is the most under-resourced part of the



health system." It is hoped that we will no longer hear of Dr Remenyi's case of open-heart surgery in Indigenous children. It is also hoped that residents in remote and rural Queensland have access to sufficient and culturally appropriate primary health care within their communities.

Chris Mitchell



Image courtesy of WHO.

Flood support services for North and West Queensland residents

We were saddened to see the devastating floods that swept through North Queensland earlier this year.

Below is a list of current support services available. It is encouraged all in North and West Queensland to make use of those services in supporting their own mental health and wellbeing or supporting others.

Click on the tiles below for more information.

ACRRM	AMA Queensland	Australian Government, Department of Human Services
Australian Red Cross	Carey Group	Queensland Government, Monsoonal Trough
North Queensland PHN	RDAQ Foundation	Queensland Government, Get Ready
General Practitioners Down Under		Queensland Government, Recovery After Disaster
Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority		RACGP, Managing Emergencies
Royal Flying Doctor Service	Salvation Army	RACGP, Flooding and Its Impact
Incitec Pivot Limited	Western Queensland PHN	Townsville City Council
		Townsville Enterprise

Scholarships & Bursaries

We can provide financial assistance for your training and upskilling!

The Health Workforce Scholarship Program provides **scholarships and bursaries** to help health professionals in remote and rural Australia to retain and enhance their skills, capacity and scope of practice.

We can provide the following financial support to eligible applicants:

- Scholarships of up to **\$10,000 per year** for up to two years of a course that leads to a post-graduate qualification; or
- Bursary payment to **cover the cost of training/course fees** and/or cover training related expenses such as accommodation and transport, where appropriate.

To be eligible for a scholarship or bursary you:

- Must be a qualified health professional in the field of medicine, nursing, dentistry, allied health or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health;
- Currently provide or are soon to provide health services to locations in [MMM 3-7](#); and
- Are employed in private practice, an Aboriginal Medical Service or a non-government/not-for-profit organisation.

Apply for a scholarship or bursary!

The Health Workforce Scholarship Program is a initiative of the Australian Government Department of Health, administered in Queensland by Health Workforce Queensland.



Know your body and understand your health with Fitbit's most advanced fitness tracker — one that uncovers insights you can use to take action to improve.



fitbit charge 3™

If you apply for a scholarship or bursary by **5:00pm Wednesday 17 April, 2019** and are deemed successful, you will go into the draw to win a **Fitbit Charge 3** valued at **\$229.00**.

The countdown is on to the QRMFN Family Program

The RDAQ 2019 Conference and QRMFN Family Program is heading to Cairns over 6-8 June!

The Family Program boasts a variety of fun activities for children and their parents/guardians including:

- Children's meet and greet dinner and entertainment,
- Children's Workshop,
- 30th Anniversary Celebration Bunker Party,
- Green Island Eco and Adventure Tour,
- Children's movie night!*

The QRMFN Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 7 June and this year we're pleased to announce Shelley Madden as the guest speaker. Shelley is the founder of [World Central](#); a not-for-profit organisation that supports leaders and practitioners in remote Indigenous communities Australia-wide.



Image courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland.

As part of the guest speaker presentation will be a workshop with Shelley and her colleague Charmaine Patrick, a mentor and researcher at Word Central. This workshop will provide spouses and partners with a variety of tools and strategies.

Last but definitely not least will be the announcement of the [2019 Backbone of the Bush Award](#) recipient at the David Horn Memorial Gala Dinner on the Saturday night.

*Please note, the program is subject to change.



Register
for the 2019
QRMFN Family
Program



Project ECHO®

In rural, remote and under-served areas, many children and young people are not getting the care they need, when they need it, for complex but treatable conditions.

What is Project ECHO®?

An online, interactive model of case-based learning, delivered via video conference.

It empowers local providers to practice to the top of their scope.

Project ECHO supports regions most in need by moving knowledge to front line providers, including primary care clinicians, educators and social care providers.

Children's Health Queensland support children and young people with:

Behaviour and mental health problems

Overweight and obesity

Clubfoot and other foot anomalies

Project ECHO



Case-based learning
to master complexity



Connecting care providers
across multiple settings





not getting the care

is delivering ECHO to
people with:



Changing the world, fast!

To date, the Children's Health Queensland ECHO® hub has trained more than 300 multidisciplinary professionals.

Children's Health Queensland has been designated an ECHO® Superhub, which means we can train and accredit other organisations to use ECHO®.

Are you part of the ECHO®? Contact us.

e: ECHO.CHQ@health.qld.gov.au

w: www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/project-echo



Spreading knowledge
to rural, remote and
under-served regions



Reduce wait times,
avoid unnecessary travel,
deliver care closer to home

Vacancies & Workshops

General Practitioner : [Gladstone](#)

The position is for a full time General Practitioner at the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Service, [Nhulundu](#). The practice is located in the central business district of Gladstone in a new purpose-built facility.

Gladstone sits at the start of the Great Barrier Reef, and the beautiful harbour is surrounded by a multitude of easily accessible islands. Gladstone is also easy driving distance to Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Agnes Waters and the town of 1770.

General Practitioner : [Cooktown](#)

General Practitioner : [Mount Isa](#)

General Practitioner : [Chinchilla](#)

Emergency Paediatric Workshop

[18-19 May | Gold Coast, QLD](#)

Paediatric care can be very challenging and unpredictable. The aim of the workshop is to provide rural doctors with cross domain, team-based learning opportunities.

This workshop is accredited for **ONE DAY** of the Rural Procedural Training Grant, as well as ACRRM and RACGP points. Our expert presenter, Dr Sonia Twigg, will lead you through:

- > Sepsis
- > Diabetic keto-acidosis
- > Head injuries
- > Infections and rashes
- > Seizures
- > Upper and lower airway cases
- > Wounds, burs and fractures
- > ABC and life support

Obstetrics Workshop

[6 June | Cairns, QLD](#)

This is the pre-conference workshop to the [RDAQ 2019 Conference](#) with Dr John Hall from Toowoomba as the Lead Presenter!

The majority of Australian women will go to their GP for referral to a specialist during pregnancy, but that is often not possible for those living in remote and rural communities. In those areas, the role of delivering babies often falls in the hands of the local GP-Obstetrician. It is therefore essential that they have the knowledge and skill required to deal with a number of situations they may face during care of an obstetrics patient.

Did you know you can apply for a bursary to attend our CPD Workshops?
Before you register, find out more about the [Health Workforce Scholarship Program](#).

Health Works

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