

RAHC Update

REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS

Issue 4 - October 2009 | Funded by the Australian Government

Message from Lisa Studdert - General Manager

Welcome to the fourth edition of the RAHC newsletter.

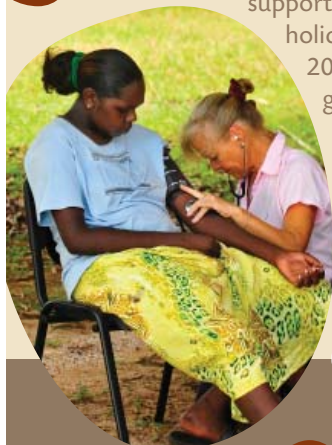
As the northern wet season approaches and the warm evenings return to Central Australia we find we are busier than ever with health professional placements. In the last three months we have placed nearly as many people as in the first six months of this year so our capacity continues to grow and our ability to support primary health services in the NT continues to strengthen.

The launch of a revamped website with new features to facilitate applications and give health professionals more information about the communities and health centres in the NT has been an exciting development for RAHC. We're already seeing the benefits through a quick rise in the number of applications received and look forward to converting these to on-the-ground placements throughout the NT.

We have been continuing to develop our training and orientation programs in close consultation with the management of health clinics and the Aboriginal Medical Services. In particular, in the past few months we've been focusing on online training resources – to be launched in early 2010 – and offering a number of programs for further skills development among health professionals doing repeat placements for RAHC.

As we approach the first anniversary of RAHC operations we are looking at how we can strengthen our feedback procedures to ensure we receive timely and honest feedback from RAHC health professionals and the clinics/services they work in. This is critical to our commitment to ongoing improvements in the RAHC operations and most importantly, in further assessing how we can support health services in the effort to strengthen primary health care and close the gap. We encourage you to give us whatever feedback you can. Ideas and suggestions are welcome also. Write to us anytime at: feedback@rahc.com.au

In the remaining months of the year we will be working hard to ensure health clinics and centres have the staffing support they need over the end-of-year holiday period and for a strong start in 2010. We welcome and are continually grateful for your support in this endeavour.



RAHC Launches New Website

The new and improved RAHC website is now up and running. The new look site offers visitors a comprehensive overview of RAHC, with more information about our team members, NT community profiles, our advisory committee, travel & accommodation, our cultural & clinical training and links to useful resources.

An important feature of the site is an online application facility. Health professionals can now apply directly to the listed jobs available or complete an open application form so they can be considered for future placements. Another new feature of the site is the Google supported interactive map of the Northern Territory. This map pinpoints the location of current job vacancies, profiles on remote communities RAHC has been servicing and stories from health professionals that have returned from a RAHC assignment. Check out the new site today.

rahc.com.au



RAHC's Google supported interactive map.

Christmas Staff Needed

RAHC requires general practitioners and registered nurses to help fill holiday vacancies in remote Indigenous community health centres in the Northern Territory during the Christmas and New Year period.

RAHC will provide all personnel with cultural training and clinical orientation prior to the start of a placement. In addition, RAHC will arrange all travel from the point of origin to the destination and return. Accommodation is provided.

Make a difference this holiday season and get involved with RAHC. Call our People Placement Team on 1300 MY RAHC or apply online at our website now - rahc.com.au

Get Involved. Visit rahc.com.au

Community Profile

Nhulunbuy (Gove) NT

Nhulunbuy, also referred to as Gove, is a remote community located on the eastern-most tip of the Gove Peninsula. Nhulunbuy is approximately 600 km east of Darwin.

The Gove Peninsula encompasses nearly 100,000 square km of land owned by the Yolngu Aboriginal people, and is famous for spectacular beaches and great fishing.

Nhulunbuy was created as a mining town in 1971 with a special town lease on Aboriginal land to service the bauxite mine. The mining lease is operated by Rio Tinto Alcan Gove Pty. Ltd.

All areas off the mining lease are Aboriginal land held in trust for the Aboriginal owners by the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust.

Nhulunbuy has a population of approximately 3800 permanent residents. The population of the town is variable due to the number of people who fly in and out for work related to the mine.

Nhulunbuy has excellent community facilities, including a shopping centre, trades & services, schools, Gove Hospital and even a golf club.

The dry season (May to October) brings cool nights and fine dry days, the wet season is humid and hot with frequent showers and storms.

Source: <http://www.goveonline.com/nhulunbuy>



RAHC Team Member

Kylee St George RN

Clinical Support Manager

RAHC Alice Springs Office

After completing her studies Kylee undertook a placement in Papua New Guinea as part of the Australian Youth Ambassador Program. In this role Kylee was able to contribute to the development and implementation of a new curriculum in a school of nursing and worked closely with student nurses in both a lecturing and practical role.

This experience focussed Kylee's dedication to the promotion of better health outcomes for remote Australians and confirmed her passion for teaching. Before taking up her position as Clinical Support Manager, Kylee was lecturing at Charles Darwin University in Alice Springs. Throughout her career both as a practicing nurse and in her other roles she has gained a valuable understanding of community expectations and the challenges that lay ahead for health professionals and the health care industry.



As Clinical Support Manager Kylee's role is to support RAHC health professionals before, during and after their placements in remote communities by providing support about remote practice, health updates and general well being support to ensure successful placements for the health professionals and the communities where they work.

RAHC REC Course



REC course participants: Sally Leonard, Kate Marshall, Katie Brett, Kym Bramberger, Aaron Richardson, Nicola Young, Lynette Bradley.
CRANA instructors - Wendy Bowyer and Sue Orsmond

RAHC recently hosted a CRANA Remote Emergency Care (REC) Course at the University of New South Wales Kensington Campus for seven registered nurses that have previously been on RAHC placements in the NT.

The REC course, delivered by CRANA trainers, comprised of 2.5 days of intensive theoretical and practical skill development. The course is designed to enhance emergency skills for rural and remote practitioners. The course has a hands-on delivery element which fosters confidence in emergency life-saving interventions and primary and secondary assessment.

Participant Sally Leonard from NSW thought the course was delivered better than other courses she has completed. "It was a great course, delivered really well in a comfortable learning environment" Sally said. "It really made you confident to apply your skills in a remote setting"

RAHC is planning to run more REC courses in 2010 as part of a program of professional development opportunities for health staff doing multiple placements through RAHC. The aim of this program is to support ongoing skills development for remote health practice.

Apply online at rahc.com.au

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