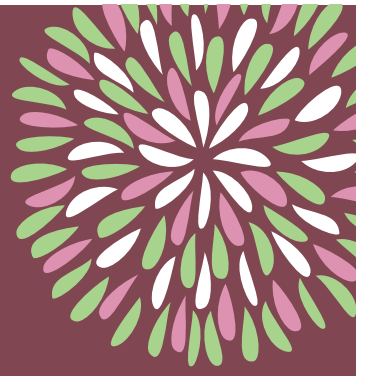


RAHC Update

REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS

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RAHC Celebrates 1000th placement!



The Remote Area Health Corps (RAHC) has filled over 1,000 short-term health professional placements into remote Indigenous communities across the Northern Territory (NT) since beginning operations less than 3 years ago.

RAHC health professionals have been providing significant support to the hard working permanent staff in the remote health centres as well as expanding the health workforce in remote Indigenous communities throughout the NT.

The Hon Warren Snowdon MP, Member for Lingiari and Minister for Indigenous Health says, "I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the entire RAHC team for reaching the 1000th placement milestone."

"As the Member for Lingiari, it is wonderful that these 1000 health provider placements have been for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in remote NT communities. Since beginning operations in 2008, RAHC has helped ensure remote Aboriginal communities have access to doctors, nurses and allied health providers."

The RAHC team celebrated this important milestone with health professionals, stakeholders and staff at a morning tea in Darwin and via video link with Alice Springs on Thursday September 29 2011. The RAHC Oral Health online training module was also launched at this event (see back page for more information).

Photos: (top) 1000th RAHC health professional Wendy Evans RN cuts the cake in Alice Springs. (below) RAHC Board Member Pat Anderson and Chairman Tony Austin celebrate in Darwin with John Paterson (AMSANT), Dr Michael Wilson (NTGPE) and Dr Chris Handbury (NT DoH).



MyRAHCExperience

Peta O'Meagher | Registered Nurse

Many years ago Peta O'Meagher, a registered nurse from Western Australia, spent a year on a remote placement in the Kimberley which opened her eyes to the opportunity for advanced practice. Peta says, 'I learned that confidence although important, was not enough and spent the next twenty years gaining the skills necessary to provide appropriate health care to remote Aboriginal populations'. When Peta saw RAHC advertised in a nursing careers magazine she applied without hesitation. Since March 2010 Peta has undertaken six RAHC placements across the NT.



Peta notes many rewarding moments during her RAHC placements. From watching the sunrise after seeing the plane finally take her patients after a particularly long overnight trauma management haul in Kalkarindji, to having breakfast with a young Aboriginal woman after being part of the team to help deliver her baby in a clinic in Lajamanu.

For remote placements Peta says, 'I think being a good team player helps, there's no one that can do this job alone. I have the attitude that as I am only here for short placements "I am here to help".'

'I know it's great to have continuity of health staff but to offer relief, even if only short contract work, can be a refreshing change and give the opportunity for 'fresh eyes' on a problem'.

The RAHC online training modules helped Peta prepare for her placements. Peta says, 'They are a great thing to do while you are on contract or before if you are organised. Most health issues for Aboriginal people are not common issues to elsewhere in Australia so there will be a knowledge deficit if you just turn up. There are skills to practice and things to avoid'.

When asked if she has advice for others considering the RAHC program, Peta says, 'If possible, prepare yourself with a broad knowledge base. Let go of all expectations and the way you do things at home. Listen to the Aboriginal people and do all the RAHC modules first, especially the communication and education one.'

Get Involved. Visit rahc.com.au

Community Profile

Lajamanu NT

Lajamanu was established in 1949 when it was decided to move Warlpiri people from Yuendumu to what was formerly known as Hooker Creek station. On the first three attempts people walked away and returned to their own communities walking directly across the desert.

Lajamanu is situated in semi-arid country with a spectacular mountain range in the surroundings. The community has a population of almost 1,000, mainly Warlpiri people who strongly maintain their language and culture. Ceremonies and traditional art are extremely important. The culture in Lajamanu remains strong due to its remote location and an active Community Council.

Established in 1980, the Lajamanu Council was the first Community Government Council to be formed in the Northern Territory. Lajamanu is a well serviced community with an airport, art centre, community care centre, community store, football oval, mobile phone service, recreation halls, religious services, safe house and a school with classes up to year seven.



The health centre is the Lajamanu Community



An arial view of Lajamanu



health centre managed by the Katherine West health board and is serviced by a permanent doctor, registered nurses and Aboriginal health workers.

Source:<http://www.google.com.au/imgres?q=Lajamanu&hl=en&client=firefox-Wu8>
<http://www.google.com.au/imgres?q=Lajamanu&hl=en&client=firefox->
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RAHC Staff News

Since our last newsletter a number of staff changes have occurred throughout RAHC.

In Alice Springs, Registered Nurse Aaron Richardson has joined the team as the RAHC Clinical Coordinator. Aaron has been working in the Northern Territory as both a locum nurse with RAHC, on various placements, and directly for an Aboriginal Medical Service since 2009.

Placement Consultant, Candice Priscina is now overseeing all nursing and recruitment placements throughout the NT with assistance from Lizzie Uhr who has been promoted from Office Coordinator to Assistant Placement Consultant.

We have also recently farewelled founding RAHC staff members Julie Rapson (Senior Placement Consultant) and Brooke Sawyer (Marketing Manager) who have taken up new positions outside the company.

New Oral Health Online Training Module Launched

RAHC has recently launched a free online Oral Health training module to better prepare dental health professionals providing care in remote Indigenous communities. The Oral Health module, part of the *RAHC Introduction to Remote Health Practice (Online) Program* is the newest addition to the suite of online clinical modules that are freely available to the public via www.rahc.com.au

The RAHC team collaborated closely with the Department of Health (DoH) Oral Health Services (OHS) team to develop the module. RAHC works closely with OHS to provide Dentists, Dental Therapists and Dental Assistants for remote placements. RAHC was pleased that OHS could work with us to develop such an important resource. Thanks to the OHS team for their hard work and valuable contribution.

2012 Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference

Call for Abstracts

The organising committee for the Northern Territory General Practice Education (NTGPE) 2012 Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference is inviting abstracts from health professionals related to the conference themes.

The title and theme of the 2012 conference is True Colours—Performance and Professionalism in Health Education. Submissions are currently open and close 28 November 2011. The conference recognises the importance of dynamic, well trained health professionals and in particular the benefits of learning within inter-professional teams.



For more information or to submit an abstract please visit: www.ntgpe.org.au

Apply online at rahc.com.au

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