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- peer-reviewed articles of interest
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- events and updates

Articles of interest

Remote area nurses' perceptions of the enablers and barriers for delivering end-of-life care in remote Australia to Aboriginal people who choose to pass away on their traditional lands

Remote area nurses are often the profession coordinating care for Aboriginal people with a terminal condition who wish to pass away on country. Through a literature review and thematic analysis of targeted survey responses, this paper considers the enablers and barriers perceived by remote area nurses when providing end-of-life care to Aboriginal Australians on country.

The identified barriers to the provision of end of life care for Aboriginal people on country included delivery of culturally appropriate care; workforce stability; insufficient cultural knowledge and understanding; and a lack of guidance and support from family. The identified enablers included effective communication with the family and Aboriginal elders; willingness of staff to participate in care; and input from Aboriginal health practitioners.

Although additional research is required to understand this subject further, this study confirmed that remote area nurses are resourceful and committed to overcome the barriers.

[Find out more](#)

Turnover among Australian general practitioners: a longitudinal gender analysis

Research shows that a key determinant of positive health outcomes is a high quality primary healthcare sector and a stable General Practitioner (GP) workforce. This paper sought to understand the role of gender differences in GP workforce turnover.

An analysis of annual survey responses from a longitudinal study involving 1900 female and 2000 male GP's was used to identify correlates of turnover and the effects related to unplanned and planned turnover.

Part-time employment was found to be a significant contributor in both genders of actual and intended turnover. Female GP's under 40 years of age with young children were found to have higher rates of unplanned turnover than men. The paper offered initial discussion on the factors contributing to the turnover data and acknowledged that further research is required.

[Find out more](#)

World Health Organisation building blocks in rural community health services: An integrative review.

In 2007, the World Health Organisation (WHO) released the Framework for Action "Everybody's business: Strengthening Health Systems to Improve Health Outcomes" which is underpinned by six building blocks of a health system, including building block two: the health workforce. Research indicates that the Framework has been instrumental in strengthening the overall health system.

This paper used an integrative review methodology to analyse 20 peer reviewed articles with 13 specifically identifying examples of rural health services where the health workforce is reflected in both delivery models and implementation.

Multiple health workforce strategies implemented within rural health services were identified. Strategies included professions working collaboratively across the health workforce and organisational boundaries, and healthcare workers acting as advocates for their local communities. The paper also identified key health workforce challenges currently facing rural and remote communities.

[Find out more](#)

Building a sustainable rural physician workforce

It is well known that there are access barriers to specialist care for patients living in rural and regional areas compared to those living in metropolitan cities. A

comprehensive investigation into the challenges and solutions to growing a sustainable rural physician workforce has been enabled through the Building Rural Physician Workforce (BRPW) project.

The BRPW study brought together stakeholders from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians; Commonwealth Government and Queensland Government to provide original research focusing on five key themes including the characteristics of the existing workforce; professional identity; rural training context features; supervisor contexts; experiences and intentions; and future guiding principles.

The BRPW study described eight foundational principles and identified the institutions involved in operationalising the principles to build a sustainable rural physician workforce. It highlighted the importance of recognising the distinctiveness of rural contexts and the need for positive action towards these settings with a specific focus on the design of training programs to better equip specialist physicians for a career in rural medicine.

[Find out more](#)

Unique knowledge, unique skills, unique role: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers in Queensland, Australia.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker role is an identified position in the mainstream Queensland Health workforce and has responsibility in advocating for culturally safe care. This qualitative study sought to articulate the distinctive value of this position in the modern Queensland Health service.

Highlighted by the findings was the generalist nature of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker role, which comprised the three core functions of health promotion, clinical service, and cultural brokerage. The role is client centered recognised through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strengths-based ways of knowing, being and doing. The study found that the role is likely the only position with both a corporate remit and the cultural expertise to execute the intent of national and state-based cultural safety policies.

A viable and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce is critical to linking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and how it impacts on context-specific service adaptations in the mainstream government health service.

[Find out more](#)

Events

Rural Emergency Medicine Workshop

08 – 10 October 2021

Cairns

[Find out more](#)

Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium

03 – 04 November 2021

Canberra or Virtual

[Find out more](#)

Digital Health Institute Summit

18 – 19 October 2021

Melbourne

[Find out more](#)

Food for thought

Beyond 2020: Addressing racism through transformative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and cultural safety education

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jocn.15623>

Views and experience of the aged care system in Australia

https://csrcm.cass.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/docs/2021/5/Views_and_experience_of_the_aged_care_system_in_Australia_April_2021_PDF.pdf

Australia in 2030 - what is our path to health for all
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.5694/mja2.51020>

WHO Guideline on Health Workforce development, attraction, recruitment, and retention in rural and remote areas

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/341139/9789240024229-eng.pdf>

PODCAST: Solving Australia's aged-care workforce challenge

<https://anchor.fm/ceda/episodes/Solving-Australias-aged-care-workforce-challenge-e15lgkb>

Aboriginal Health Workers Pivotal to transforming experiences of care, reports finds.

<https://www.croakey.org/aboriginal-health-workers-pivotal-to-transforming-experiences-of-care-report-finds/>

Contact

We welcome your comments and contributions. Please contact us at

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