CONFERENCE REVIEW

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**The 2007 Shepparton Research Conference,
“Moving Forward: Rural Research & Knowledge Transfer”**
Shepparton Victoria, Australia.
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The University of Melbourne School of Rural Health, University Department of Rural Health and the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Program (PHCRED) supported the third annual rural conference. This year's theme was “Moving Forward: Rural Research & Knowledge Transfer” with the emphasis of the conference covering rural health related issues.

A pre-conference workshop was held on the day prior to the conference with the two workshops covering “Engaging Communities” facilitated by Professor Kerin O’Dea and “From Research into Policy” facilitated by Dr Andrew Refshauge.

Included in the conference welcome speech the convener of the conference, Dr Jennifer Critchley, formally acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, the Yorta Yorta people, and paid respect to the people. A local Yorta Yorta tribal elder “Aunty Francis” gave a short speech about the people which was followed by rapturous applause. Both keynote presenters acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and their people, prior to commencing their presentations.

The conference was held over one day. There were two keynote addresses with 24 free papers grouped into six themes. The first keynote address was in the morning session by Professor Kerin O’Dea and covered “Preventable Chronic Disease in Indigenous Australia Population – The need for a Comprehensive National Approach”. This was followed by a concurrent session of free papers covering the “Advancing Years” and “Workforce Issues” themes.

After the lunch break was the second keynote address by Dr Andrew Refshauge which was entitled, “*Dividing the Health Cake*”. For the remainder of the day a variety of concurrent sessions included, “Community Involvement”, “Medication and Pharmacy Issues”, “Chronic Disease Management”, and “Women’s Issues”.

Seven posters were on display for the duration of the conference, which covered a broad range of topics from clinical aspects to secondary data analysis.

The next conference will be held at the University of Melbourne School of Rural Health in Shepparton, at approximately the same time next year, however, the exact date has yet to be decided.