

Media Release

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The best investment for the country: healthy kids

A Conference in Alice Springs next April will make the case for governments in Australia to invest more heavily in social, community and health care for children in rural and remote areas.

'Caring for Country Kids' means ensuring that in more remote areas our children are well provided with education, social and community care, development opportunities and good food as well as high quality primary, secondary and tertiary health care.

There is a mass of evidence showing that support for development in the early years, and close attention to early intervention for children with treatable conditions, lays the basis for a healthy later life. The Conference next April will consider some of the detailed ways in which country children can be assured of the best possible start in life.

It is often the social and educational issues that are most important in enabling a child to learn and develop.

"We need a care system that is truly integrated from the child's viewpoint, across education, social care, housing and infrastructure, as well as primary, secondary and tertiary health care," said Gordon Gregory, CEO of the National Rural Health Alliance.

"People who would like to be on the conference program have until 31 October to put in an abstract," he said. To submit an abstract visit www.countrykids.org.au

The Conference is a joint venture of Children's Healthcare Australasia (CHA) and the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA). It is being held in the Alice Springs Convention Centre from 17-19 April 2016.

For more details and exhibitor opportunities email conference@ruralhealth.org.au

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