

The Medical Journal of Australia • MJA

MEDIA RELEASE

RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH: LOCAL FOCUS, LOCAL BENEFITS

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01am Monday 14 December 2020

THE Spinifex Network, a national rural health and medical research alliance, has published six rapid reviews in an *MJA Supplement* published today.

The aim of the Supplement, coordinated by Associate Professor Sonya Osborne from the University of Southern Queensland's School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Dr Donella Piper, Program Manager for NSW Regional Health Partners, is to introduce the Spinifex Network and to showcase a few of the many rural, regional and remote health research priority areas.

The four priority areas discussed in the supplement are:

- Food security in rural and remote Australian communities: Alston and colleagues (Chapter 1) synthesise evidence on initiatives for improving food environments in regional and remote populations;
- Impact of natural disasters on people living in rural and remote areas: Goodwin and colleagues (Chapter 2) review the research on the effectiveness of health and social interventions in supporting the physical and mental health needs of rural populations; Curtin and colleagues (Chapter 3) focus specifically on the short and long term effects of bushfire on children;
- Recruitment and retention of a sustainable rural health workforce: Walsh and colleagues (Chapter 4) review rural health workforce policies and highlight the lack of research; Gillam and colleagues (Chapter 5) examine publicly available data sources currently used to inform health workforce and health services planning;
- Global crises affecting people in rural and remote settings: Lieschke and colleagues (Chapter 6) describe the complexity and challenges of tapering opioids in patients with chronic non-cancer pain.

For more on the Spinifex Network visit <https://spinifexnetwork.com.au>

All MJA media releases are open access and can be found at: <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/media>

Please remember to credit *The MJA*.

The *Medical Journal of Australia* is a publication of the Australian Medical Association.

The statements or opinions that are expressed in the MJA reflect the views of the authors and do not represent the official policy of the AMA or the MJA unless that is so stated.

CONTACTS: Associate Professor Sonya Osborne
University of Southern Queensland
Email: Sonya.Osborne@usq.edu.au
Ph: 07 3812 6084

Dr Donella Piper
Program Manager and Social Scientist
NSW Regional Health Partners
Email: donelle.piper@health.nsw.gov.au
Ph: 0402 444 634

Professor Christine Jorm
Co-Convenor, Spinifex Network
Email: Christine.Jorm@health.nsw.gov.au
Ph: 0419 752 153 or 02 4964 7163