

ARHEN RURAL INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION NETWORK

Terms of Reference

November 2005

Membership

The ARHEN Rural Interprofessional Education Network (or RIPEN) is open to educators from University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH) and Rural Clinical Schools (RCS) with an interest in Interprofessional Education (IPE) and Interprofessional Practice (IPP). Other health professional educators with an interest IPE may be invited to join Network meetings as 'associates'.

Aim

The aim of the Rural IPE Network is to promote interprofessional education as an essential component of health professional education programs in Australia, particularly in the context of rural health care.

Network Priority Areas

The Rural IPE Network has identified the following priority areas:

- Developing an active and sustainable IPE-focused network for mutual support and sharing of knowledge and resources where appropriate.
- Ensuring that IPE becomes an integral and sustainable part UDRH and RCS education programs and promoting IPE amongst undergraduate health professional students.
- Encouraging collaboration between sites where IPE is conducted and nurturing the development of IPE and IPP at those sites.
- Monitoring and evaluating IPE and IPP activities across UDRH and RCS sites, developing research initiatives, including collaborative projects, and encouraging the publication and presentation of related papers.
- Lobbying both government and non-government organisations to support IPE initiatives.

Meetings

- The Rural IPE Network will hold a minimum of six teleconference meetings annually.
- One annual face-to-face meeting, to be held in Canberra, will be coordinated with support from UDRH Directors.
- ARHEN will provide administrative support for all meetings.
- Rural IPE Network members will facilitate/chair meetings.
- Rural IPE Network members will nominate a chair at the first meeting of each calendar year.