



Notwithstanding these encouraging results we remain actively involved in further validation studies not limited to the BED-CEIA but will also explore the suitability of testing algorithms involving, for example, antibody avidity testing. There is emerging consensus that validated laboratory based tests are the method of choice to estimate national HIV incidence and assess the impact of national prevention programmes.

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## African section of e-journal *Rural and Remote Health*

**To the Editor:** We read with interest the *SAMJ* article 'Scope and geographical distribution of African medical journals active in 2005' by Siegfried *et al.*,<sup>1</sup> and would like to bring to your readers' attention the recent launch of an African section of the e-journal *Rural and Remote Health* (RRH). This regional section has a particularly African flavour, owing to its own editorial board and peer-review panel, but is under the umbrella of the international journal.

We hope that the African section will add to the initiatives described by Siegfried *et al.* and address some of the issues raised in their article. *RRH* is an international, peer-reviewed, open-access journal. It is Medline-listed. It aims to offer wider world exposure for quality African research in the area of rural and remote health care education, policy and practice. We

believe the issues of rural and remote health are relevant to most of Africa.

Because *RRH* is an electronic journal it affords authors timely publication on an article-by-article basis. In addition, the electronic format means that *RRH* is not geographically bound, and therefore offers rural and remote authors and users an all-of-Africa approach to publication.

In a recent *RRH* editorial to coincide with the launch of the African section, we recognised the impact of inadequate access to information on the problems of health and health care in Africa.<sup>2</sup> We also discussed the issue of inequity in access to the Internet, which has been highlighted for urgent attention by the Commission for Africa,<sup>3</sup> and recent initiatives to improve the current situation of variable access.<sup>4,5</sup> We offer the African section of *RRH* as a small contribution towards this.

The Journal can be accessed at [www.rrh.org.au](http://www.rrh.org.au). Users should select 'African section' from the main menu on the home page.

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