



Date: 14 June 2009

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PHI REBATE CHANGES

On Wednesday, the APHA President and CEO met with Senator Steve Fielding to discuss APHA's concerns with the proposed changes to PHI rebates.

As reported in last week's NEWS, APHA was due to appear before the Senate Economics Committee's Inquiry into the legislation on 9 June.

However, Opposition Senators boycotted the hearings in protest to the rushed nature of the inquiry. Therefore the morning session did not proceed due to a lack of quorum, meaning the Committee did not hear evidence from APHA, Treasury or the Department of Health and Ageing.

APHA understands the Opposition will seek to establish a more wide-ranging inquiry when the Senate resumes on 15 June. They will need the support of Senators Fielding and Xenophon to succeed.

A copy of APHA's submission to the inquiry is now available at: http://www.apha.org.au/policy.html#cat_2375386081

CONSULTATION BEGINS ON NATIONAL SAFETY AND QUALITY FRAMEWORK

Following consultation with Consumer organisations, jurisdictions, the private healthcare sector, the primary care sector and other healthcare stakeholders, a proposed National Safety and Quality Framework has been developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC).

The proposed Framework is designed to guide action to improve the safety and quality of the care provided in all health care settings over the next decade.

The proposed National Safety and Quality Framework contains twenty-two strategies for improving the safety and quality of care for patients and consumers. The core theme is that safe, high-quality care is always:

- Patient focused
- Driven by information
- Organised for safety

The Commission is currently seeking comment on the proposed Framework and on actions that are most important for achieving the directions established in the proposed Framework. For details, or to complete the brief framework survey, please visit www.qualityhealthcareconversation.org.au

2009 APHA / BAXTER AWARDS FOR QUALITY & EXCELLENCE

Nominations are now open in 3 Categories:

1. Clinical Excellence Award
2. Ambulatory Care Award
3. Community Involvement Award

Has your hospital demonstrated excellence? Visit www.apha.consec.com.au to download Selection Criteria and Application. Deadline for submissions is 31 July 2009. WINNERS announced at the 29th Annual National Congress on the night of 12 October at the Gala Awards Dinner. Contact Angela Hook for more details: angela.hook@apha.org.au.

2009 APHA MEMBER SURVEY

The second comprehensive membership survey will again be conducted by Best Practice Australia for APHA.

Please expect to receive this survey in your email account between 19 June and 3 July, From: Best Practice Survey [\[mailto:BestPracticeSurvey@bpanz.com\]](mailto:BestPracticeSurvey@bpanz.com)

with Subject: [2009 APHA Member Survey – Request from Michael Roff](#).

Continued feedback and communication with membership is necessary for APHA to progress towards the goal of understanding and delivering value to members. Please participate! Your feedback is important to us.

BUILDING/RENOVATION/MAJOR WORKS PROGRAMS AT PRIVATE HOSPITALS

The August edition of *Private Hospital* magazine will showcase recent building and major works programs at private hospitals across the country. Please contact Lisa Ramshaw to discuss your recent project and whether you would like it included in the August edition. Please contact Lisa Ramshaw at lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au. Deadline for submissions will be Friday 19 June.

6th INNOVATIVE PRACTICE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR CONFERENCE

The 6th annual Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference seeks to publicly reward innovative practice in private hospitals and to provide a platform for initiatives to be shared amongst industry colleagues. Held on 26 June 2009 in Brisbane, this conference is for CEOs, S&Q managers, Risk managers, DONs/DCSs and other senior executive staff to learn from colleagues across Australia. See www.phaq.org for more information.