



15 November 2009

Productivity Commission

This week, APHA lodged a submission in response to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report on its Research Study into the Performance of Public and Private Hospitals. The submission is available from the APHA website, www.apha.org.au.

APHA Safety & Quality Taskforce

The APHA Safety & Quality Taskforce met this week and received an update on the APHA National Safety and Quality indicators collection project. The pilot phase of the project is progressing well and participating hospitals will be receiving their first indicator reports this week.

The Taskforce also began planning for a series of member forums on key safety and quality issues to be conducted in the first half of next year.

PHI Announcements

This week, the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, addressed the Australian Health Insurance Association Conference. During her address the Minister re-confirmed the Government's intention to publish average premium increases for individual insurers (currently only an industry-wide average is published) *"allowing consumers to compare their fund's performance with other insurers and drive competition in the market."*

The Minister also announced that it was likely the legislation to means test the private health insurance rebates would be re-introduced into parliament in the next sitting fortnight. This legislation was rejected by the Senate in September.

A copy of the Minister's speech is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/sp-yr09-nr-nrsp111109.htm?OpenDocument>

Participants wanted for Pilot of Revised EQulP4 Standards

ACHS is seeking private hospital participants in the pilot of the revised EQulP4 standards. Any hospital interested in participating should contact Barbara Carney, APHA's Director of Policy and Research at barbara.carney@apha.org.au.