



18 October 2009

2009 APHA National Congress

Thank you to all of our presenters, exhibitors and sponsors of the 2009 APHA National Congress. APHA hospital members can check out the members area of www.apha.org.au for presentations and photos from the Congress. We'd also love to have member feedback on the Congress to make next year's program even better. Visit the APHA forums page at: www.apha.org.au/forums/topic/feedback-on-the-2009-apha-national-congress to tell us what you thought was great and what could be improved upon.

Congratulations to the 2009 APHA/Baxter Award Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2009 APHA/Baxter Awards for Quality and Excellence. The winners were announced at the Gala Dinner at the Congress last Monday night. The winner of the **Award for Clinical Excellence** was **Epworth Eastern Hospital** with their program of excellence called 'Epworth Excellence – Accountability, Outcomes, Passion – We Can Make a Difference' which has been rolled out in all clinical areas of the hospital, including by Allied Health staff and in procedural areas and more recently expanded to the non-clinical departments.

The winner of the **Ambulatory Care Award** was **Belmont Private Hospital** for their General Practice Liaison Service. The GLAS program at Belmont Private is an outpatient service to provide consultation liaison support for General Practitioners and their patients who require mental health services.

Two hospitals received the **Community Involvement Award**. **Kareena Private Hospital's** 'Events and Happenings Calendar' and **the Marian Centre's** Supporters Group Program were joint winners.

Productivity Commission Draft Report released

The Productivity Commission released its draft report last Thursday into the performance of public and private hospitals. In May 2009, the Federal Government asked the Commission to examine the comparative performance of hospitals. The Commission's full draft report may be downloaded from <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/hospitals/draft>.

APHA responded to the draft report. Our press release can be downloaded from the APHA website homepage at www.apha.org.au

Prosthesis Devices Committee Bulletin 30

The Department of Health and Ageing have released Bulletin #30 in order to provide all stakeholders to the prostheses arrangements with information which may be relevant to them for the current and future Prostheses List Cycles. The Bulletin is posted on the Prostheses page of the Department of Health and Ageing's website at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/privatehealth-pdc-bulletin.htm>

Changes to Extended Medicare Safety Net Benefit

As announced in the 2009-10 Federal Budget, the Australian Government will be placing an upper

limit on the amount of benefit that will be paid under the Extended Medicare Safety Net (EMSN) for selected MBS items. The EMSN provides an additional rebate for Australian families and singles who incur out-of-pocket costs for Medicare eligible out-of-hospital services. The EMSN benefit caps will be implemented from 1 January 2010. For more information, see <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Factsheet-EMSN>

Diabetes Prevalence in Australia

AIHW has released a new report on the prevalence of diabetes in Australia. Diabetes is known to cause substantial morbidity and mortality in Australia, however the number of people with the condition is uncertain. Different estimates of the prevalence of diabetes are regularly reported on. This report compares measures of diabetes prevalence from a number of national data sources across two time-periods to best determine the current prevalence of diabetes in Australia. See <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10639> to download a copy of the report.