

**Date: 19 April 2009**Level 3, 11 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600. PO Box 7426, Canberra BC ACT 2610. [P]: (02) 6273 9000, [F]: (02) 6273 7000, [W]: www.apha.org.au**HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
REVIEW**

Members are reminded that this review is underway. The APHA is represented on the Stakeholder Reference Group, but the first meeting of that group has been delayed by the Department of Health and Ageing from 14 April to 30 April. However, submissions are still due on **22 May**. Comments and input are eagerly sought. Please email your comments to Barbara Carney, Director, Research and Policy at Barbara.carney@apha.org.au.

Download the Discussion Paper for the Review at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/htadiscussionpaper.htm>

AND ANOTHER REVIEW

In parallel with the HTA review, the Department of Health and Ageing has announced that it is conducting a Review of the human tissue listing arrangements for Part B of the Prostheses List. The **draft** terms of reference are:

- To assess items (and their sponsors) currently on Part B of the Prostheses List to ensure they meet Australian legislative requirements (including the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007* and the various states/territories *Human Tissue Acts*) and are consistent with Government policy objectives. Consideration to be given to:
 - whether a Medicare benefit is payable for the professional service associated with the provision of the prosthesis;
 - whether autologous items should be listed;
 - whether the listing of items is consistent with the principle that no profit should be derived from trade in human tissue; and
 - whether TGA licensing requirements are met.
- To assess the appropriateness of the current structure of Part B of the

Prostheses List and to make recommendations to ensure the use of consistent nomenclature for human tissue items;

- To assess current benefits for human tissue items on Part B of the Prostheses List taking into account:
 - apparent anomalies for similar human tissue items; and
 - freight and handling costs;
- To recommend a sustainable and efficient model to consider applications to list or amend human tissue items that is supported by appropriate clinical and financial expertise and is complementary to existing TGA and MSAC processes.

This review will be done in parallel with the Health Technology Assessment Review. Some areas of this review may be subsumed by the Health Technology Assessment Review.

The APHA is meeting with the review team shortly, and will seek to clarify how this process fits in with the HTA Review.

Please send any comments on these draft terms of reference to Barbara Carney.

MATERNITY SERVICES REVIEW RELEASED

The Chief Commonwealth Nursing Officer, Rosemary Bryant, has presented her report on maternity services in Australia to Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon. The Report makes a number of recommendations, principal amongst which are:

- That the Australian Government, in consultation with states and territories and key stakeholders, agree and implement arrangements for consistent, comprehensive national data collection, monitoring and review, for maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity.**
- That the Australian Government, in consultation with states and territories and key stakeholders,**

initiate targeted research aimed at improving the quality and safety of maternity services in select key priority areas, such as evidence around interventions, particularly caesarean sections, and maternal experience, including from postnatal care.

The Report of the Review may be found at:

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/64A5ED5A5432C985CA25756000172578/\\$File/Improving%20Maternity%20Services%20in%20Australia%20-%20The%20Report%20of%20the%20Maternity%20Services%20Review.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/64A5ED5A5432C985CA25756000172578/$File/Improving%20Maternity%20Services%20in%20Australia%20-%20The%20Report%20of%20the%20Maternity%20Services%20Review.pdf)

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Does your hospital have a successful solution to help the environment? Do you have an environmentally sustainable program or an innovative answer to waste disposal? Does your hospital have a kitchen garden where items grown are used in the hospital or are grown for therapeutic purposes? If you have any environmental programs running at your hospital, please contact Lisa Ramshaw, APHA's Public Affairs Manager who is planning the June edition of Private Hospital Magazine. Lisa can be contacted at Lisa.Ramshaw@apha.org.au or on 02 6273 9000.