



# APHA Vital Signs

2 August 2009

## Health and Hospitals Reform Commission Final Report

APHA was represented by President Chris Rex and CEO Michael Roff at the launch of the National Health & Hospitals Reform Commission's final report last Monday in Canberra. The report contains 123 recommendations that are largely unchanged from the "reform directions" stated in the interim report released last February. It is interesting to note that the NHHRC largely ignored the private sector when looking at reform of Australia's health system.

The Prime Minister announced that he and the Health Minister Nicola Roxon will now undertake a six-month period of consultation, visiting major public hospitals and a "representative sample" of private hospitals before deciding which, if any, of the recommendations will be adopted.

APHA is now liaising with the Health Minister's office in relation to selecting the "representative sample" of private hospitals to be included in these visits. In addition, in the near future, APHA will be meeting with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing, Jane Halton, to discuss issues around the selection and implementation of the NHHRC recommendations.

The full report is available on the NHHRC website: [www.nhhrc.org.au](http://www.nhhrc.org.au)

## Yourhealth.gov.au

In response to the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission's report, the Prime Minister has announced a national consultation process. As part of that process, he launched an interactive website [www.yourhealth.gov.au](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au) which includes a link to the PM's blog focused on health. He is keen to hear the views and ideas of the health sector towards the future of the health system. The blog provides a way to provide direct comments to the PM.

## APHA Appoints Policy Manager

APHA has appointed Dr Peter Thomas to the new position of Policy Manager. Peter has recently arrived in Canberra from the UK, where he has worked in policy research and analysis in the not for profit sector and as a consultant. He has considerable experience in dealing with government agencies and consumer focused organisations. Peter's previous roles have involved major research projects analysing large complex data sets. His PhD is in Cultural Geography. Peter will work with Director of Policy and Research Dr Barbara Carney on the APHA's policy agenda and in support to the Board and APHA Taskforces.

## APHA Member Survey – Prize Winner Announced

Rhiannon Harvey, PA to CEO/DON at Glengarry Hospital in Duncraig, WA is the lucky winner of the \$500 gift voucher to David Jones for participation in the APHA Membership Survey. We thank Rhiannon and all those who participated in the 2009 APHA Membership Survey. Congratulations Rhiannon!

## Update on Phase One Accreditation Reforms

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is pleased to advise that an update on the implementation of Phase One Accreditation Reforms is now available at the Commission's Accreditation Program page: <http://tinyurl.com/lby4gx>

This update includes new information in relation to:

- Development of a preliminary set of Safety and Quality Healthcare Standards
- Surveyor Participation in Accreditation
- Piloting of Short Notice Surveys in Accreditation
- Piloting of Patient Journey Methodologies in Accreditation
- Legislation and Regulation Review
- Timelines for the completion of Phase One Accreditation reforms

## Refining National Asthma Indicators

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report: ***Refining national asthma indicators Delphi survey and correlation analysis***

This report is the result of a systematic review undertaken by the Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring (ACAM) to refine and simplify asthma monitoring in Australia. A Delphi survey and correlation analysis were used to review the currently recommended list of 24 national asthma indicators in order to identify a smaller set of core indicators, which provide the most important and relevant information and which are more effective at signalling change for future asthma monitoring activities. Click on the link to view the report: <http://tinyurl.com/lwpmtk>

## CHIK Health-e Nation '09 Conference

The CHIK Health-e-Nation '09 Conference will be held on 19 August in Canberra. This annual forum brings together key international and Australian executives, clinicians and decision makers to explore and progress the role of information and communication technology as enablers of health service reform and most importantly, challenges the status quo. See [www.health-e-nation.com.au](http://www.health-e-nation.com.au) for more information.