

**Date: 26 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](http://www.apha.org.au)**ANZAC DAY OFFICE CLOSURE**

Members are reminded that the APHA Secretariat will be closed on Monday, 27 April 2009 in observance of Anzac Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, 28 April at 8.30am.

**INVITATION TO PROVIDE MEMBERS TO THE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE ASSURANCE ADVISORY GROUP (HIAAG)**

The HIAAG's primary role is to highlight specific private sector issues that impact upon the safety and security of the health of the community and promote strategies for private sector business continuity in the event of a health emergency, such as a pandemic or a terrorist incident.

The HIAAG comprises representatives of the owners and operators of private health sector critical infrastructure. The current work of the HIAAG includes:

- development of a discussion paper on private pathology laboratory capacity;
- addressing medical indemnity insurance concerns currently faced by private hospitals;
- development of a model or advice to assist the health sector consider threats to health supply chains.

These issues have a significant potential impact on hospitals' operational and planning activities.

The HIAAG currently meets twice a year. The membership of the HIAAG includes the following:

- Australian Self-Medication Industry
- Catholic Health Australia
- Australian Private Hospital Association
- Medicines Australia
- CSL Limited
- Australian Red Cross Blood Service
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Health Communication Network
- Medical Software Industry Association

- Medical Industry Association of Australia
- and representatives of the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA), Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), National Blood Authority (NBA), Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) and State and Territory Counter-Terrorism (CT) Units.

To facilitate information sharing on critical infrastructure protection and the work of the group, the membership is being broadened. APHA has been asked to nominate additional members. There are TWO spots available. Please contact Barbara Carney on [Barbara.carney@apha.org.au](mailto:Barbara.carney@apha.org.au) if you would like to nominate.

**NHMRC ISSUES PAPER ON THE COMMERCIALISATION OF HUMAN TISSUE PRODUCTS**

The Australian Health Ethics Committee (AHEC) has established a Working Committee to develop an issues paper on the Commercialisation of Human Tissue Products. The paper is currently entitled *Ethics and the exchange, sale of and profit from products derived from human tissue*.

The paper is currently available for public comment. The Issues Paper can be downloaded below: information about how to make a submission is included inside the front cover of the document.

[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health\\_ethics/ahec/files/public\\_consultation\\_draft.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health_ethics/ahec/files/public_consultation_draft.pdf)

**REGISTER NOW FOR THE 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL APHA NATIONAL CONGRESS**

Visit <http://www.apha.consec.com.au/> for more details about this year's event to be held 11 – 13 October at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne.

**REQUEST FOR DATA ON SENTINEL EVENTS - REMINDER**

Two weeks ago, we wrote to all APHA members to request data on the number of sentinel events in your facility in 2007/2008 in order for private hospital sector data to appear in the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare's National Report 2009.

The data you provide will be strictly protected and will not be used for purposes other than the Commission's 2009 report. We would appreciate receiving your data by **Friday 8 May 2009** so that it can be consolidated and forwarded to the Commission.

**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESSES AT PRIVATE HOSPITALS**

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](mailto:Lisa.Ramshaw@apha.org.au) or on 02 6273 9000.

**HESTA NURSING AWARDS – TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

HESTA Super Fund in conjunction with Members Equity Bank is proud to present the 2009 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards in Melbourne on 14 May 2009.

Tickets to this event are available at the discounted price of \$50 per head for group bookings of eight or more people and include a three-course dinner and drinks. This is a great way for you to reward employees or network with your colleagues across health and community services. Go to [www.hestanursingawards.com](http://www.hestanursingawards.com) to purchase your table today so you don't miss out.