



APHA Vital Signs

30 August 2009

George Toemoe to sit on NHMRC Health Care Committee

APHA Board Member George Toemoe has been appointed to sit on the NHMRC's Health Care Committee (HCC). The HCC, which is chaired by Prof John Horvath, provides the NHMRC advice on clinical matters in health.

George has always had a strong interest in medical and clinical matters as well as associated medical technology and IT initiatives and capabilities particularly from a patient care point of view. He recently retired as CEO from St Luke's Care in Sydney.

Jobs Board Now Available on the APHA Website

Member Hospitals are advised that APHA is pleased to offer the facility to list your job vacancies on our new website. Just email the details of the positions you would like listed to Lisa.Ramshaw@apha.org.au and she will add them to the site.

Spending on mental health services at \$4.7 billion

The national recurrent expenditure on mental health services in 2006–07 was estimated to be \$4.7 billion, according to a report released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

Of the total:

- 62% (\$2.9 billion) came from state and territory governments
- 34% (\$1.6 billion) came from the Australian Government
- the remaining 4% (\$177 million) came from private health insurance funds

Funding increased by just over 5% per year on average between 1997-98 and 2006-07.

Funding by the state and territory governments and by the Australian government both increased by 5.3% per year.

An estimated 12 million GP-patient encounters in 2007-08 involved management of a mental health issue, with the number of encounters growing by an annual average of 4.4% since 2003–04.

The majority of these encounters were not claimed as Medicare mental health-specific items, and therefore are not included in the estimated national expenditure on mental health-related services.

Community mental health and hospital outpatient services provided close to 6 million mental health-related service contacts to mental health consumers in 2006–07, an increase of more than 5% from 2005–06.

Private Hospitals – Maximising the Opportunities

Only 6 WEEKS TO GO until the 29th APHA National Congress! This event has grown over the years to become the premier event for everyone associated with private hospitals in Australia and is the most important event on the APHA annual calendar. It provides a fantastic opportunity to network with peers, hear from industry experts, learn about upcoming trends, and gather valuable

insight to assist you in your workplace. Spaces are limited, so make sure you register yourself and your colleagues now. Winners for the 2009 APHA Baxter Awards for Quality & Excellence will be announced at the Congress Gala Dinner & Awards Night. Some options for advertising and participating in the Health Sector Trade Expo remain. Visit www.apha.consec.com.au to learn more.

Over 1.5 million women screened through BreastScreen Australia

In 2005–2006, over a million and a half (1,622,481) Australian women participated in the BreastScreen Australia program, most of whom were in the target age range of 50–69 years , according to a report released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

According to the *BreastScreen Australia monitoring report 2005-2006*, nearly 57 per cent in the target age group participated, which is an increase on 2004–2005.

Over the ten year period from 1996 to 2006, the proportion of invasive breast cancers detected that were small remained above 60%. Since the BreastScreen Australia program began in 1991, new cases of breast cancer for women aged 50–69 years increased from 230 per 100,000 in 1991 to 279 in 2005, with a peak of 305 in 2001. Conversely, deaths from breast cancer for women aged 50–69 years have decreased steadily from 66 per 100,000 women in 1991 to 47 per 100,000 in 2006.

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