



4 October 2009

APHA needs your feedback

The APHA Council will look at strategic priorities for the organisation at its next meeting on 13 October. It is important that APHA is aware of the strategic issues members would like us to address in the coming year or two. Councillors have been in touch with their electorates, but if you would like to give us feedback directly, please go to our forum page on the APHA website and let us know the top three strategic priorities you would like the organisation to address. Visit <http://www.apha.org.au/forums/> and let us know your views.

The forum page can also be used by members who have issues or questions that other members may be able to provide some assistance. If you have a question or issue you'd like to start a discussion on, please email [Lisa Ramshaw](mailto:Lisa.Ramshaw@apha.org.au) and she can set up a forum for you.

AIHW releases 55 recommended safety and quality indicators

This week, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released its report recommending 55 national safety and quality indicators. The report concludes the National Indicators Project, a major project funded by the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Healthcare, and conducted by the AIHW in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including the APHA.

The AIHW says:

The scope of this indicator set is the safety and quality of clinical care provided to patients across the Australian health care system. Thirteen indicators apply to primary and community health services, 25 to hospitals, six to specialised health services, and five to residential aged care. Eleven indicators apply to multiple or all types of health services. Established indicators were not identified for services such as ambulance, dental services and community pharmacy.

The focus is on safety and four quality domains: appropriateness, effectiveness, continuity, and responsiveness. Most (42) of the indicators in the set reflect appropriateness of care, responding to the growing emphasis on evidence-based health care and best practice guidelines; and 25 relate to safety.

The adoption of these indicators will need to be agreed by the States and Territories.

Meanwhile, APHA is proceeding with its pilot of the first Australian national indicator set. We look forward to bringing members the results from this pilot later in the year.

The AIHW report is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/hse/hse-75-10792/hse-75-10792.pdf>

2009 APHA Annual General Meeting: Proxies

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Private Hospitals Association Limited will be held at **3.45 pm on Sunday 11 October in Savoy room 3 at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne.**

Members who are unable to attend are encouraged to complete a proxy. A copy of the proxy form can be obtained by downloading it from the members area on the APHA web site. Members who wish to receive an additional copy of the annual financial statements should contact Kathryn Lee (on 02 6273 9000, email kathryn.lee@apha.org.au). **Proxies must be registered at least 48 hours prior to the AGM and should be forwarded to reach the Secretary by 3.45pm ESST on Friday 9 October 2009 (fax: 02 6273 7000).**

Countdown to the Congress!

We have had an overwhelmingly positive response to the Congress Program created by the 2009 APHA Congress Taskforce. In creating the program structure and selecting experts and leaders from across Australia and overseas, the Congress Taskforce kept the hot topics and relevant information you need top of mind. In response, we are anticipating the highest number of delegates yet registered for an APHA National Congress and expect the number to swell further still.

This year's program is equally well supported by the generosity of a numerous sponsors and exhibitors from the healthcare industry.

If you are one of the lucky last-minute-variety, you can still register online at www.apha.consec.com.au to attend the Congress from 11 – 13 October, at the Grand Hyatt in Melbourne. Make sure you tick the box to indicate your attendance at the complimentary session on Sunday: the Hand Hygiene Workshop. This is a must-attend for every hospital and will be hosted by the two top leaders in the field: Marilyn Cruickshank and Phil Russo. You can also register online to attend the Congress Gala Dinner & APHA / Baxter Awards Night. Please finalize your registration bookings as soon as possible. Online registration ends Wednesday 7 October at noon. Registrations can be made on-site at the Registration Desk at the Congress from Sunday 11 October at noon.

See you in Melbourne!

Using Tools to Make Clinical Handover Safe: A Practical Workshop

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is hosting a one day workshop on clinical handover in Melbourne. This workshop provides an opportunity to learn and share information about some of the tools that been developed to assist with clinical handover improvement.

Sessions at this workshop will cover topics such as:

- Shift-to-shift handover
- Bedside handover
- Interprofessional handover
- Interhospital transfer
- Handover between aged care and hospital
- Electronic tools and handover
- Education programs for handover

The workshop will take place at the Rydges Melbourne, 186 Exhibition Street on Monday 23 November 2009 from 9am to 5pm. Early bird registration is \$230. For further information or to register contact [Sarah Dixon](#).

Health Spending Passes \$100 billion

Australia's spending on health goods and services is now in excess of \$100 billion a year, according to a report released last week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The report, Health expenditure Australia 2007-08, shows total health expenditure in Australia was \$104 billion in 2007-08, and was 9.1% of gross domestic product (GDP). This was the same percentage of GDP as the previous year. Compared with other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries in 2007, Australia's health spending as a proportion of GDP was similar to Italy, Norway, Sweden and New Zealand. It spent more than the United

Kingdom, but considerably less than the USA where health spending accounted for 16% of GDP.

The report examines Australia's health spending from 1997–98 to 2007–08, and shows the average annual growth in health expenditure for the decade was 5.2% compared with an average growth in GDP of 3.5% per year. The full report can be downloaded at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10954>

NHMRC Short Course

On Thursday 3rd December, the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety is running a 1-day short course titled; "Human Factors: Barriers and opportunities for application in clinical practice". This will take place in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Level 3 Burnet Building at The Alfred Hospital, Prahran, Melbourne.

Human factors is very topical within healthcare, with lots of people talking about how it can offer opportunities for patient safety but much less so about how it can be utilised effectively, in a practical sense. This short course seeks to address this and give a clear introduction to human factors as a discipline, with an outline of some key methods and the chance - through group work - to discuss and debate opportunities and challenges for action within your organisational context.

For more details on the short course please go to the website: <http://www.crepatientsafety.org.au/>
Places are limited to 40 attendees so to secure a place you should get in early.