



Date: 07 June 2009

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PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE CHANGES

The legislation giving effect to the changes to health insurance rebates announced in the Budget was passed by the House of Representatives this week. APHA was quoted extensively during the parliamentary debate.

On Monday, the APHA President and CEO held meetings with the Senior Adviser to Senator Xenophon and with the Shadow Health Minister to discuss concerns about the proposed changes.

In addition, APHA received a private briefing conducted by officials from Treasury, the Department of Health and Ageing and Advisers to the Health Minister in relation to the Government's modelling of the impact of the measures. APHA believes the information provided raises serious questions about the validity of the modelling.

On Tuesday, Michael Roff was interviewed by Fran Kelly on Radio National highlighting the errors in the Treasury modelling and the complex and confusing nature of the proposed measures.

Also on Tuesday, the legislation was referred to an inquiry to be conducted by the Senate Economics Committee. This is a particularly rushed inquiry with Submissions due on 9 June, the same day the Committee will conduct public hearings, at which APHA has been invited to present. The Committee is due to report by 16 June. APHA will provide members with the submission as soon as it is "released" by the Committee (Senate rules prohibit the disclosure of submissions to Committee inquiries until they have been "released"). We anticipate this will take place on 9 June.

APHA has a range of activities underway in relation to this legislation and will keep members advised.

APHA OFFICE CLOSED FOR QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

The APHA Secretariat will be closed on Monday, 8 June for the Queen's Birthday Holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, 9 June at 8.30am.

2009 APHA / BAXTER AWARDS FOR QUALITY & EXCELLENCE

Nominations are now open in 3 Categories:

1. Clinical Excellence Award
2. Ambulatory Care Award
3. Community Involvement Award

Has your hospital demonstrated excellence? Visit www.apha.consec.com.au to download Selection Criteria and Application. Deadline for submissions is 31 July 2009. WINNERS announced at the 29th Annual National Congress on the night of 12 October at the Gala Awards Dinner. Contact Angela Hook for more details: angela.hook@apha.org.au.

2009 APHA Member Survey

The second comprehensive membership survey will again be conducted by Best Practice Australia for APHA.

Please expect to receive this survey in your email account between 19 June and 3 July, From: Best Practice Survey [<mailto:BestPracticeSurvey@bpanz.com>] with Subject: [2009 APHA Member Survey – Request from Michael Roff](#).

Continued feedback and communication with membership is necessary for APHA to progress towards the goal of understanding and delivering value to members. Please participate! Your feedback is important to us.

CLINICAL HANDOVER: CRITICAL COMMUNICATION

ACSQHC has published a supplement issue in the Medical Journal of Australia on Clinical Handover. This supplement issue, Clinical Handover: Critical Communication, contains eleven articles authored by pilot studies funded by ACSQHC, along with an article contributed by the Victoria Quality Council. It is available on the Medical Journal of Australia's website at www.mja.com.au.

NHMRC CENTRE OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT SAFETY - Seminar

There are still spaces at the next seminar focusing on Translating Quality Indicators into Practice in Sydney on Thursday 11th June 2009. Attendees will learn how best to collect and use indicators to maximise their impact on improving patient outcomes. To register, please go to: <http://www.crepatientsafety.org.au/seminars/>

BUILDING/RENOVATION/MAJOR WORKS PROGRAMS AT PRIVATE HOSPITALS

The August edition of *Private Hospital* magazine will showcase recent building and major works programs at private hospitals across the country. Please contact Lisa Ramshaw to discuss your recent project and whether you would like it included in the August edition. Please contact Lisa Ramshaw at lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au. Deadline for submissions will be Friday 19 June.