



Date: 15 March 2009

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APHA COUNCIL MEETING: APHA OFFICE CLOSURE

The APHA Secretariat will be closed on Monday, 16 March for a National Council meeting in Sydney. The office will re-open on Tuesday 17 March at 10.00am.

CHRISTINE BENNETT TO MEET WITH APHA COUNCIL

Christine Bennett, Chair of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission will attend part of the APHA Council meeting on Monday, 16 March to brief Councillors on the interim report of the NHHRC and to obtain feedback from the Association.

VTE WORKSHOP

St Vincent's Private Hospital in Sydney are organising a free one day workshop on preventing Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) on 3 April 2009 from 8.30am-4.30pm. The workshop will provide practical information and discussions around the prevention of VTE which causes between 2000-5000 deaths in Australia each year. For more information about the workshop or to register, email jduff@stvincents.com.au.

WHO SAVE LIVES: CLEAN YOUR HANDS DAY

Tuesday 5th May 2009 is the WHO *Save Lives: Clean Your Hands* day, aimed at improving hand hygiene worldwide.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is intending to promote the National Hand Hygiene Initiative on this day

to coincide with the WHO event. They will distribute a media release and aim to undertake a 'media blitz' on the Initiative, however no physical launch is planned. They have engaged a media firm to manage media liaison and are keen to find out if any hand hygiene events are being run in hospitals on that day. If so, they would also like to know if there are any activities in which the Commission could provide support.

Hospitals and organisations can register to receive further information on the WHO *Save Lives: Clean Your Hands* event at the WHO website <http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/en/index.html>. You can also access background information from the site.

NEW REPORT ON WORKFORCE FROM AIHW

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) released a new report on 6 March. Titled *Health and community services labour force 2006* the report shows that in 2006, over 9% of Australia's workforce was employed in health and community services occupations - a 26% increase from 2001. Between 2001 and 2006 the health workforce and community services workforce increased by 22.8% and 35.6% respectively. Over the same period, the health and community services workforce aged with the proportion of workers in the 55 to 64 years age bracket increasing by 4 percentage points. This report also contains information on geographical distribution, country of birth and

qualifications held. The report is available from the AIHW website www.aihw.gov.au

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN ROUND 12 OF THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL DATA COLLECTION - SAME DAY SERVICES

The Department of Health and Ageing is seeking participation in Round 12 of the NHDC, which will collect data from private freestanding day facilities. If you wish to participate, please advise the Department of Health and Ageing via email to nhcdc@health.gov.au by **Friday 20 MARCH**.

HEALTH MINISTERS LAUNCH NEW MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

On 8 March, the Australian Health Ministers' Council formally launched the 2008 National Mental Health Policy. The policy refers to the "need for collaboration across a range of services provided or funded by different government and private sectors, non-government agencies, individuals and organisations in the community to improve the mental health of Australians. Most importantly, it recognises that to achieve the desired outcomes there must be ongoing development and support of a skilled workforce delivering quality services that are based on the best evidence and are continually monitored and evaluated"