



# APHA Vital Signs

A WEEKLY ROUND-UP OF NEWS VITAL TO THE PRIVATE HOSPITAL INDUSTRY

14 February 2010

## APHA comments on draft National Safety and Quality Standards

APHA has provided comments on the draft National Standards that will soon be piloted by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Our submission can be found at <http://www.apha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/APHA-comments-on-draft-national-S-Q-standards-February-2010.pdf>

## Legislation update

1. The House of Representatives has passed the legislation to means test the private health insurance rebate. The legislation still has to pass the Senate, where the Opposition will continue to vote against it. The PHI Bills are expected to be debated in the Senate in the week beginning 22 February.
2. The Government has introduced the legislation to establish a national healthcare identifier system for patients, healthcare providers and healthcare provider organisations. This will give a 16-digit Health Identifier Number (HIN) to patients, providers and facilities. The HIN does NOT replace the Medicare patient number or provider number. Participation is voluntary. The legislation should go through both Houses of Parliament by 30 June this year.

## Australia Day Honours

Associate Professor Denis King, Chairman of the Board and colorectal surgeon at Hurstville Private Hospital, was awarded an Order of Australia for his contribution to colorectal services. Professor King's history spans 35 years from being appointed colorectal surgeon at St George Public Hospital in 1976, to being instrumental in the establishment of St George Private Hospital and in 2008 was appointed a Fellow, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

## ECT Therapy – NSW to launch new standards at conference in March

Psychiatric facilities that provide ECT may be interested in a conference that NSW Health is holding from March 25 and 26 at Westmead Hospital in Sydney. The conference has applicability to broad ECT research and clinical practice, and is free of charge to participants. APHA has been asked to advise interested members. The new Standards for ECT in NSW will be launched at the conference. APHA has commented on the draft of these standards. For more details contact Andrea Ching at [achin@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:achin@doh.health.nsw.gov.au)

## Research in Private Hospitals

Is your hospital involved in research and/or clinical trials? The next edition of Private Hospital magazine is themed around research programs in private hospitals. Showcase the vital work being undertaken in your hospital. Please contact Lisa Ramshaw, APHA Public Affairs Manager at [lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au](mailto:lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au) with details on programs that could be highlighted in the next issue. Deadline for submissions is 19 February.

## Keep Your Staff Up-to-Date

APHA provides **FREE** copies of *Private Hospital* magazine to all member hospitals. What better way to keep your staff up-to-date with the happenings in the private hospital industry than having

copies of the magazine in your staff tea rooms or break rooms? Please contact Elise at [admin1@apha.org.au](mailto:admin1@apha.org.au) to organise copies to be sent to your hospital.

### **Nominations are now open for the 2010 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards**

Is there a nurse in your organisation who deserves to be recognised for an extraordinary achievement? Is there an innovative, nurse-led program that would benefit from a development grant? Acknowledge the best and brightest in your workplace – nominate them now for the 2010 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Following the huge success of the 2009 Awards, HESTA Super Fund and major sponsor ME Bank are searching for a new group of amazing nominees. Your outstanding nurse, midwife, personal care attendant, assistant in nursing or nurse innovator can be nominated for one of three awards:

Nurse of the Year – the winner receives a \$5,000 travel voucher plus a \$5,000 education grant  
Innovation in Nursing – the winner receives a \$10,000 development grant  
Graduate Nurse of the Year – the winner receives a \$2,500 travel voucher plus a \$2,500 education grant

You can make a nomination now by visiting [www.hestanursingawards.com](http://www.hestanursingawards.com). Nominations close on 28 February 2010.

### **NHMRC TRIP Fellowships - Applications invited**

The National Health and Medical Research Council recently announced the new Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP) Fellowship scheme. Applications are now invited for 2010. These Fellowships will contribute to training a cohort of professionals within Australia who can provide leadership in research translation to improve clinical practice.

The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission Report highlighted the need for the uptake of research findings in clinical practice to effect real improvements in health outcomes for people. Getting evidence to these health professionals at the coalface is critical for these improvements to take place.

The Fellowships are available to early-to-mid career clinical leaders who have completed professional training in a health discipline, including medical practitioners, nurses, allied health professionals and paramedics.

For more information about how to apply for TRIP Fellowships and TRIP Partnership Awards, visit: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/career/index.htm#d>

Applications close March 1, 2010, for funding commencing in October 2010.