



21 March 2010

## Health will be the subject of opening Election Debate on Tuesday

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott will square off on Tuesday 23 March to debate health and health reform at the National Press Club in Canberra. The debate will be televised live on the ABC at noon.

## Health Workforce Australia Meeting

This week, APHA met with the CEO of the newly established Health Workforce Australia, Mr Mark Cormack.

HWA has been established under an agreement between the Commonwealth and State Governments with four key functions:

- 1) A single source of advice on health workforce planning to provide a nationally consistent view
- 2) Provide funding for undergraduate clinical training
- 3) Promotion of workforce innovation and reform
- 4) International recruitment

HWA has a budget of \$1.6 billion over four years of which \$1.1 billion is new money. These new funds for clinical training will be distributed by HWA and not the States.

APHA provided information on the level and scope of training currently being provided by member hospitals based on the results of our recent workforce survey. Mr Cormack said he was very keen to engage with the private sector with a view to providing funding to ensure the level of training could be increased. Models and structures for ensuring appropriate engagement with the private sector were also discussed.

## APHA is Coming to your State – 2010 Member Forums

APHA is about to embark on an exciting campaign to promote the value of Private Hospitals in Australia to the community. This campaign will showcase the vital work private hospitals undertake every day and aims to mobilise the community to support private hospitals in the lead up to this year's Federal Election.

Please come along to learn more about this new initiative and how you can be a part of it, hear about APHA's key strategic focus areas in 2010 and spend a bit of time networking with colleagues from other hospitals in your state.

The first forum was held this past Wednesday in Adelaide and the members there are excited about the campaign and the possibilities it creates for private hospitals in Australia.

We encourage all hospital executive team members, admissions managers and marketing managers to attend. If you haven't RSVP'd yet, please email Member Services Manager, [Angela Hook](#) and let her know which session you will attend.

Brisbane – 23 March 2010, 3.00pm – 5.00pm, The Wesley Auditorium  
Sydney – 26 March 2010, 8.30am – 10.30am, North Shore Private Hospital  
Melbourne – 29 March 2010, 12.00 – 2.00pm, Epworth Hospital  
Perth – 30 March 2010, 5.00pm – 7.00pm, The Perth Clinic

## **Increase in the number of training places for specialist doctors and for GPs**

The government is doubling the number of specialist doctor training places from 360 to 900 by 2014. This will deliver an additional 680 specialists into the health system by 2020. The government intends to draw on the private sector to expand the overall capacity for specialist training. Specialist training places will be targeted to areas where there are currently shortages and priority will be given to providing training places in communities where Australians need them, such as in rural and regional areas.

The Prevocational General Practice Placements Program will be expanded from the current 400 places to 975 places by 2013-14. This program allows students to undertake a 10-12 week placement in general practice after they graduate from medical school. This program is being expanded to ensure that more junior doctors can experience a career in general practice before they become a fully fledged doctor. In addition to this the number of places available for medical graduates to train to become a GP will increase to 1,200 per year from 2014.

## **AIHW to amend report after APHA complaint**

In December 2009 the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) released a report 'Funding sources for admitted patients in Australian hospitals, 2005-06'. This report received significant media attention, much of which was negative for private hospitals. Many of the reports suggested that private hospital patients were costing the government the same amount of money to treat as public patients. This incorrect assumption was being caused by the unclear way in which the data was presented in the report. APHA immediately complained about the report to the AIHW. This week the AIHW agreed that the report should have been clearer and have decided to amend the report as requested. The amended report will make it clear that when all government (Commonwealth and State) contributions are taken into account, private hospital patients cost the government significantly less to treat than public hospital patients.

## **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. We can provide as many as 100 copies per facility.

## **News from ACSQHC**

The latest update from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care can be downloaded from the Commission's website at <http://tinyurl.com/yebomnc>