



28th November 2010

APHA Valuing Private Hospital Staff Awards – Nominations Open

The APHA Valuing Private Hospital Staff Award program was announced during Private Hospital Week last April. The nomination period for these awards is now open and will close 31 January 2011. Awards will be given in three categories:

- ~ Excellence and Innovation in a Clinical Role . individual
- ~ Excellence and Innovation in a Non-Clinical Role . individual
- ~ Excellence and Innovation in a Clinical or Non-Clinical Role . team

Each individual winner will receive \$10,000 and the winning team will also receive \$10,000. The CEO of the hospital that wins the team award will be responsible for determining how to allocate the \$10,000 across the team.

There are specific requirements for each award application. To download an application prospectus see: <http://www.apha.org.au/events/staff-awards/>.

Nominations close on 31 January 2011. The winners will be announced during Private Hospitals Week 2011, 4-8 April. The Valuing Private Hospital Staff Awards are sponsored by HESTA Super Fund.

Private Hospital Satisfaction Ratings High According to Menzies-Nous Health Survey

The Menzies-Nous Australian Health Survey 2010, which was released this week, revealed 30% of Australians are of the view the health system is working well, up 9% from 2008. Over half- 56% - thought there are good things about the system, but still support fundamental change. Only 14% thought the system needed to be re-built.

Asked to rank their satisfaction with different health services, respondents rated pharmacists and chemists the highest, followed by services offered by private hospitals. Australians were least satisfied with public hospitals and aged care services.

Healthcare service	Rank	Satisfaction rating
Pharmacists or chemists and the services they offer	1	87%
Services offered by private hospitals	2	71%
Specialist doctors	3	67%

	4	66%
	5	64%
Medicare	6	60%
Dentists and the services they offer	7	59%
The services offered by public hospitals	8	39%
Aged Care services	9	33%

For more information on the survey see: <http://www.menzieshealthpolicy.edu.au>

Private health insurance just got better

The new updated www.privatehealth.gov.au was launched in Sydney last week to make it easier for people to compare private health insurance products. The website is the product of dedicated funding from the Australian Government. As well as 12 months work undertaken by the Office Of the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman and a specially selected reference group made up of industry stakeholders representing consumers, private health insurers and health providers.

Privatehealth.gov.au provides a wealth of background material on private health insurance in Australia. It lists every registered health insurer in Australia and now has the ability for users to search for health insurance for their own family circumstances and compare what is covered in each policy.

New AIHW report: Weight loss surgery in Australia

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report that shows there was a substantial increase in weight loss surgery in Australia, from approximately 500 separations in 1998-99 to 17,000 in 2007-08.

In 2007-08, 90% of separations for weight loss surgery were in private hospitals, with private health insurance funding 82% of separations. In 2007-08, the estimated cost of hospital care for weight loss surgery was \$108 million -- approximately \$15.2 million in benefits was paid through the Medicare Benefits Schedule for weight loss surgery-related procedures. To view the report go to: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11459>.

Changes to the National Procedure Banding Schedule Update

Following the release of PHI 79/10 on 17th November re: Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements) Amendment Rules 2010 (No 7A) . FRLI No: F2010L02894 there are a couple of amendments to the National Procedure Banding Schedule Update recently distributed.

- MBS Item No 13218 has been re-categorised from an Advanced Surgical patient to a Surgical Patient

13218	NO	1A	Surgical	ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE SERVICES: Preparation of frozen or donated embryos or donated oocytes for transfer to the female reproductive system, by any means and including quantitative estimation of hormones and all treatment counselling but excluding artificial insemination services rendered in 1 treatment cycle and excluding a service to which item 13200, 13201, 13203, 13206, 13212, or 13215 applies. (Anaes.)	\$763.50
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been created

82120	NO	5	Obstetrics	Management of confinement for up to 12 hours, including delivery (if undertaken), if: (a) the patient is an admitted patient of a hospital and (b) the attendance is by a participating midwife who (i) provided the patient's antenatal care; or (ii) is a member of a practice that provided the patient's antenatal care. (Includes all attendances related to the confinement by the participating midwife). Payable once only for any pregnancy	\$724.75
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Please could you ensure that relevant staff are provided with this updated information. The memo has also been added to the APHA website.

Applications now open for second wave e-health projects

Hundreds of thousands more Australians will join the e-health revolution as a result of up to \$55million from the Gillard Government now available for the next round of innovative e-health projects across the nation.

Applications are welcome from a variety of patient settings including from Divisions of General Practice, professional organisations, non government organisations, the private sector and others involved in the care of Australian patients.

The new e-health sites will join the first three selected sites in Brisbane, the Hunter Valley and Melbourne's eastern suburbs, which are at the cutting edge of enabling Australians to use electronic health records. These sites - covering over seven per cent of the population - will be among the first to send hospital discharge summaries electronically to GPs and referrals using national specifications.

These sites will help lead the way for future planning of a secure, reliable e-health system, improving technology and identifying what works well and what could work better. Organisations wishing to apply to be one of the next wave leading implementation sites of our nation's e-health reforms should visit www.health.gov.au/tenders. Applications will close on 20 December 2010 and the new sites will be selected in the new year.

New AIHW report: The coding workforce shortfall

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report that shows concern about the shortfall in the clinical coding workforce in Australia. This has been raised in a number of national fora. This report quantifies the scope of the existing shortfall, provides some projections of future numbers required to cover increasing demands, and provides a consolidated set of recommendations to address the issues identified. To view the report go to: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11875>.