



29 August 2010

Advance Care Directives - Consultation

In 2009, the Australian Health Ministers' Council endorsed the development of national best practice guidelines for Advance Care Directives. HWL Ebsworth lawyers have now been engaged to conduct the consultation on the development of a national framework for Advance Care Directives.

The consultation closes on 11 October.

You can download the *Companion Consultation Guide* and the draft *Framework* from the consultation website at www.hwlebsworth.com.au/acdframework

If you have any enquiries, please email: acdframework.enquiries@hwlebsworth.com.au

How to make a submission: send your written submission to acdframework.submissions@hwlebsworth.com.au or to

ACD Framework Consultation Project
Attention: Geoff Bloom
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
GPO Box 5408
Sydney NSW 2001

Reminder - APHA Council 2010/ 2012 Elections

Nominations for APHA Council positions, closed on 13 August. A ballot is required in two electorates "For Profit Small Group Large Independent" and "Day Hospitals". In accordance with the rules of the Constitution, ballots were sent to all eligible members on Wednesday 18th August. The ballot closes 6th September 2010, with declaration of results and announcement of the 2010/2012 Council expected on 17th September. Completed ballots should be sent to the returning officer, Mr Paul Hynes at Williams Love Nicol, by fax 02 6263 9999 or post to GPO Box 3243, Canberra ACT 2601. Should you have any queries in relation to this please contact kathryn.lee@apha.org.au

PHIAC figures released

The latest PHIAC private health insurance membership figures show that 44.6% of the population now has hospital cover, up 0.1% on the previous quarter. A total of 9.97 million people now have hospital cover and this is the highest number of persons covered since 1983. APHA have found some errors in the data released by PHIAC and once these errors are corrected by PHIAC we will send out an APHA information paper to members on the latest private health insurance trends.

Consultation Questionnaire – Development of the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for Human Health

The Environmental Health Committee (enHealth) and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing invite you to participate in the development of the National Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for Human Health (the Action Plan).

The first phase to develop the Action Plan comprises an online questionnaire about existing activities towards climate change adaptation for human health in Australia. We invite you to follow the link below to complete the questionnaire. The information will contribute towards a national guide regarding adaptation planning in the health and aged care sectors and to the development of ideas about effective implementation.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/climate-health-adaptation>

The online questionnaire will **close 7 pm (EST) Tuesday 14 September 2010**.

Valuing Private Hospitals Campaign – get on board

The Valuing Australia's Private Hospitals Campaign continues to build momentum, but there is still more we can do to raise awareness, debunk the myths and bring a voice of reason to health reform and the vital role private hospitals play every day.

The Campaign is now supported by over 130 Champions in private hospitals around Australia who are spreading the word about the Campaign and encouraging staff and patients to speak up about why they value private hospitals.

If your hospital hasn't nominated a Champion and is keen to participate, please get in touch with Lisa Ramshaw at APHA (lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au). Champions receive all Campaign materials, toolkits and support – the time commitment is small but the impact is significant. So get involved and play your part in raising awareness about the valuable and vital role you and your team play every day in meeting the needs of patients and taking the pressure off the public system.

Australians from across the country are adding their voice to the Campaign by making an "I value ..." statement on the Campaign website, and by communicating with us through Twitter and Facebook. Perhaps your hospital has been mentioned. Why not take a look (www.privatehospitals.or.au) and add your voice.

If you are active on Facebook and Twitter we would value your support, post a comment on our wall (www.facebook.com/valuingprivatehospitals), re-tweet our messages (www.twitter.com/priv8hospitals) and help spread the word about how private hospitals 'do so much more' than people realise.

Medication Safety Update - ACSQHC

The latest Medication Safety Update from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has been released. The update can be downloaded at: http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/com-pubs_NIMC-34210-MedSafetyUpdateAug2010