



5th December 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.

Next step for Telehealth services for patients

The Gillard Government's investment in better connecting patients to specialist services through technology took a step forward with the release of a discussion paper seeking views on the most effective delivery for the scheme. Over \$352 million will support online specialist consultations for Australians in rural, remote and outer metropolitan locations.

Telehealth will cut down the tyranny of distance and bring specialist services to the patient's doorstep through the use of online videolink technology, Ms Roxon said.

From 1st July 2011, this telehealth initiative will provide around 495,000 services over four years, as well as training and incentives for specialists, GPs and other health professionals to participate in delivering online services.

The Department of Health will also be consulting stakeholders on telehealth issues through a new Advisory Group which will include professional medical colleges, peak medical and nursing bodies and consumer and aboriginal health representatives. A copy of the discussion paper can be found at www.mbsonline.gov.au and submissions close on 27 January 2010.

Youth suicide inquiry re-adopted

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing has re-adopted its inquiry into the need for, and success of, early intervention programs aimed at preventing youth suicide. The inquiry lapsed at the dissolution of the last Parliament.

To date, the inquiry process has included two roundtables, both in 2010. The first was in Melbourne and the Committee took evidence from a range of non-government organisations including the Australian Psychological Society, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, beyondblue and Headspace: National Youth Mental Health Foundation.

The Sydney roundtable also took evidence from a range of non-government stakeholders including Lifeline Australia, the Black Dog Institute, Suicide Prevention Australia and the Australian National University's Centre for Mental Health Research.

Further information in relation to the Committee's inquiry, including information on additional roundtables to be held by the Committee are available on the Committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/youthsuicide/index.htm>

Patient Blood Management Guideline Review

The Review of *The NHMRC/ASBT Clinical Practice Guidelines on Fresh Blood Components (2001)* is currently being undertaken under the auspices of the Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) with funding, project management, and secretariat services provided by the National Blood Authority (NBA) on behalf of all governments.

As part of a thorough stakeholder engagement strategy, the NBA aims to keep relevant organisations and their members up-to-date with the progress of the review via regular email updates and invite interested groups, organisations and individuals to make submissions on the draft recommendations as they are made available for public consultation on the NBA website: <http://www.nba.gov.au/guidelines/updates.html>.

Australian hospital statistics 2009-10: emergency department care and elective surgery waiting times

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report *Australian hospital statistics 2009-10: emergency department care and elective surgery waiting times*.

This report presents information relating to emergency department care in major public hospitals and public hospital elective surgery waiting times for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. In 2009-10: almost 6 million emergency department presentations were provided by major public hospitals, with 70% of patients receiving treatment within an appropriate time for their urgency (triage category); about 610,000 patients were admitted to Australian public hospitals from waiting lists for elective surgery, with 50% of patients admitted within 36 days. The report is available at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/12271>

Public Holiday Entitlements

In a decision released today, Fair Work Australia has announced it will not be amending the *Nurses Award 2010* (or a range of other Awards which were part of the same hearing) in respect of Christmas Day to include an additional penalty rate where Christmas Day both falls on a

has proclaimed an ADDITIONAL public holiday for Christmas Day then in that State . public holiday entitlements will apply to both 25th December and the additional day to be observed (i.e. in Qld and most other States . Mon 27th). Where a State has declared a SUBSTITUTE day for 25th December, rather than an additional day (i.e. Victoria) . then normal weekend penalty rates will apply for 25th December and public holiday penalties for the substituted day.

New AIHW report: Australia's mothers and babies

In 2008, 292,156 women gave birth to 296,925 babies in Australia. The increase in births continued, with 2,720 more births (0.9%) than reported in 2007. This is the second year that the rate of caesarean section has not significantly increased with a 0.2% rise from 30.9% in 2007 to 31.1% in 2008.

¶The proportion of older women giving birth has continued to rise over the past 18 years, said Associate Professor Elizabeth Sullivan, of the Institute's National Perinatal Statistics Unit located at the University of New South Wales.

¶The proportion of mothers aged 35 years and over increased from about 11% in 1991 to about 23% in 2008. Mothers aged 40 years and over made up almost 4% of all women giving birth in 2008 compared to 1.4% in 1991. ¶The report is available at:
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11813>