



7 March 2010

## Health Reform Announcement

The Prime Minister made the first of a proposed series of announcements on health reform on 3 March.

APHA has distributed a Members Bulletin providing an overview of the proposals in relation to public hospital funding and governance. In addition we have had several discussions with the Ministers' office and have submitted a series of written questions seeking more detail on elements of the proposals. Members will be advised once we have received a response.

The reform plan can be downloaded from:

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/nhnh-report/\\$FILE/NHHN%20-%20Full%20report.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/nhnh-report/$FILE/NHHN%20-%20Full%20report.pdf)

## 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.

Invitations will be sent out soon and we encourage all hospital executive team members, admissions managers and marketing managers to attend.

Adelaide – 17 March 2010, 9.00am – 11.00am, St Andrews Hospital  
Brisbane – 23 March 2010, 3.00pm – 5.00pm, The Wesley Auditorium  
Sydney – 26 March 2010, 8.30am – 10.30am, North Shore Private Hospital  
Melbourne – 20 March 2010, 12.00 – 2.00pm, Epworth Hospital  
Perth – 30 March 2010, 5.00pm – 7.00pm, The Perth Clinic

## APHA Secretariat Office Closed Monday

The APHA Secretariat Office will be closed on Monday 8 March 2010 for Canberra Day. The office will re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 9 March.

## Private health insurance coverage remains at 44.7% of the population

Recently released data from PHIAC shows that the proportion of the population with hospital membership has remained at 44.7% of the population, and there are now 9.9million people with hospital coverage. Private acute and day hospitals are treating a record number of patients, more than double that of ten years ago. The average benefit paid out to private hospitals for overnight episodes was \$919. APHA have analysed the PHIAC data and have produced a summary report

for members. Please contact [Peter Thomas](#) at APHA if you would like a copy of the report.

### **Productivity Commission – Public and Private Hospitals**

Following the publication of the Productivity Commission's final report into Public and Private Hospitals APHA have analysed and produced a short report on the Commission's key findings. This analysis shows that private hospitals offer lower cost, safer treatment, and more equitable access than public hospitals. The report was distributed to key politicians in advance of the debate on means testing the private health insurance rebate and can be found on the APHA website at <http://tinyurl.com/y9pzy52>.

### **Save that Date!**

The 2010 APHA National Congress will be held from 17-19 October 2010 at the Hilton in Sydney. Information will be posted in the coming weeks about this event which will be APHA's 30<sup>th</sup> National Congress. Mark your calendars!

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