



APHA Vital Signs

A WEEKLY ROUND-UP OF NEWS VITAL TO THE PRIVATE HOSPITAL INDUSTRY

17 February 2013

The Hon Peter Dutton to Address APHA National Congress

The Hon Peter Dutton, Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing has confirmed that he will be the closing Congress speaker on Tuesday 5 March at 4.00pm. Mr Dutton will outline the policy position of the Coalition to Congress delegates in the lead-up to the federal election.

Don't miss your chance to be part of the 2013 APHA National Congress. There are only two weeks before this premier event for those engaged in private health care in Australian and New Zealand. Register NOW so you don't miss out!

To register please visit: www.aphacongress.com.au

Concerns Continue for Chemotherapy

As mentioned last week in Vital Signs, the [Senate Community Affairs Committee](#) has been asked to undertake a review of the supply of chemotherapy drugs such as Docetaxel taking account of issue including the cost to private and public hospitals systems. Docetaxel was subject to a price reduction under the PBS on 1 December 2012 sparking concerns that hospitals would need to absorb additional costs in the provision of chemotherapy drugs that had previously been cross-subsidised by PBS payments for Docetaxel. There is still no outcome in sight from confidential negotiations between DoHA and the Pharmacy Guild. APHA continues to monitor the situation closely noting that a further price reduction for other chemotherapy drugs Paclitaxel, Methotrexate and Vinorelbine will be implemented on 1 April 2013. If any hospital has concerns about, or information relating to the impact of the price reduction to Docetaxel, it would be appreciated if they could provide this to [Lucy Cheetham](#) at APHA as soon as possible as the APHA will be making a submission to the review due by 20 March 2013.

PHIAC Data – Headlines from March Quarter 2012

The Private Health Insurance Administration Council (PHIAC) released its quarterly statistics for the December quarter of 2012 on 15th February 2013. To read the highlights go to the members area of www.apha.org.au.

APHA is analysing the PHIAC data in more detail and will publish this analysis as an Information Paper for Members.

Queensland's First Public Private Partnership

The Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) is Queensland's first public hospital Public Private Partnership (PPP). On Monday, the Queensland Government circulated 'requests for offers' to deliver opportunities at the hospital once it is open. The Government is looking for suppliers to deliver everything from clinical services to management. More information can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/cc7temr>

PHIAC's Annual Report for 2011-12

PHIAC Commissioner Lynn Ralph writing in PHIAC's Annual Report for 2011-12 on The Operations of Private Health Insurers noted concern at the growth in the number of products sold with either an excess or an exclusion. She said "While the number of products with excesses has been quite high for a number of years (now approaching 80 per cent of all products) the recent rapid rise in the number of products with important exclusions of cover is a matter for some concern. This report notes that that number is now approaching 30 per cent of all products after being at very low levels for many years. This might indicate that the full cover products offered by insurers have reached their price/value limit with more and more policy holders choosing less cover in exchange for lower prices. Importantly too, policy holders that do choose restricted or limited cover are likely to turn to the public system for those excluded services."

The full report can be read at <http://phiac.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Annual-Report-on-Operations-2011-12-web-version.pdf>

ACHS Masterclass: Back by Popular Demand

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) will host its seventh annual Executive Masterclass Series in May - with highly-respected health industry 'Masters' - Professor Cliff Hughes and Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite. This year's topic is Patient-based care: the challenge of a new paradigm and will focus attention on the increasing need to be able to design and manage in a changing landscape of health care

The annual two day event, is to be held in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide in the third and fourth weeks of May. Details can be found at <http://www.achs.org.au/education-support/executive-masterclass-2013/> or by contacting ACHS Education Manager, Ms Joy Brumby on 02 9281 9955.

Free Training for Simulation Educators

The National Health Education and Training in Simulation (NHET-Sim) is a nationwide program providing training in simulation to healthcare professionals. The NHET-Sim Program is intended to support simulation educators and technicians to work directly with simulation-based education (SBE). Participation in the NHET-Sim Program is free thanks for funding from Health Workforce Australia. For further information, please contact Please contact the NHET-Sim team at Monash University with questions related to the Program by phone (03) 9905 0221 or email nhetsim@monash.edu. To obtain a flyer about the program please email [Jodie Bremer](mailto:Jodie.Bremer@monash.edu).

10th Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference & Awards – Call for submissions

Private Hospitals Association of Queensland is calling for submissions for their 10th Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference & Awards. There will be four categories, with a prize of \$1,000 to each category winner. In addition, each of the category award winners will be eligible for the overall award which will carry a further \$4,000 prize to the winning hospital, judged by their peers.

The four categories are:

- Clinical Innovations
- Non-Clinical/Operational Innovations
- Innovations in Education & HR Management
- Innovations in Marketing and/or Community Awareness

Closing date for submission of abstracts is Monday 18 February 2013. For more information go to: <http://www.phaq.org/home.asp>

Know someone in nursing who deserves an award?

Recognise nurses, midwives, personal care attendants and assistants in nursing now by nominating them for the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Winners in three categories — Nurse of the Year, Team Innovation and Outstanding Graduate — will share a \$30,000 prize pool, courtesy of long-term HESTA awards sponsor, ME Bank.

While only nurses, midwives, personal care attendants and assistants in nursing are eligible to be nominated, it's important to remember that anyone can make a nomination.

Nominations close on 28 February 2013. Finalists will be announced in April. Interstate finalists will be flown to Melbourne for an awards dinner on Thursday 9 May 2013 where the winners will be revealed.

To make a nomination or learn more about the awards visit hestaawards.com.au

On the Radar - Issue 114

On the Radar is a summary of some of the recent publications in the areas of safety and quality in health care. Some of this week's content includes:

A paradox in healthcare service development: Professionalization of service users

Reducing Hospital Errors: Interventions that Build Safety Culture

Speaking Up — When Doctors Navigate Medical Hierarchy

The Quality and Outcomes Framework—where next?

On the Radar is available via email or as a PDF document from
<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-resources/on-the-radar/>

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