



APHA Vital Signs

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

19 May 2013

Private Hospitals Week – 12-18 May 2013

Last week, over 200 private hospitals across the country marked Private Hospitals Week (12 – 18 May) with many hosting events in recognition of their staff (especially nurses and volunteers).

To view pictures of the celebration or show why you value private hospitals, visit www.privatehospitals.org.au, become a fan on our [Facebook](#) page or follow us on [Twitter](#)

Valuing Private Hospitals Video Competition Winners

Northpark Private Hospital in Melbourne has won both the large hospital category (based on Facebook votes) and the overall competition (based on the judges' decision) in the inaugural Valuing Private Hospitals video competition on Facebook. This means that Northpark will receive \$5,000 cash and an iPad from ME Bank.

The winner of the small hospital category (based on Facebook votes) is MetroRehab Hospital in Sydney. They also win an iPad donated by ME Bank.

In naming Northpark Private as the overall winner, the judges were impressed with their creativity and the way they showed how they 'do so much more' including their links to the community.

Thank you to everyone who entered a video in the competition and to everyone who took time to vote on Facebook. This was the first year we've run a video competition and we hope to do more in the future. We look forward to seeing more entries next year.

Congratulations to both Northpark Private Hospital and MetroRehab! To see the winning entries, go to www.facebook.com/valuingprivatehospitals

PHIAC Data – Headlines from March Quarter 2013

The Private Health Insurance Administration Council (PHIAC) released its quarterly statistics for the March quarter of 2013 on 16th May 2013. To read the highlights go to the [members area](#) of the APHA website.

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

In Parliament Last Week

[Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment \(Base Premium\) Bill 2013](#) which proposes to change the method of annual adjustment for the Private Health Insurance Rebate from a fixed proportion of Private Health Insurance Premiums to an annual indexation based on the CPI was introduced to the house of Representatives. On the 17 May 2013, it was referred to a senate committee to report by 17 July 2013. APHA will be lodging a submission.

[Private Health Insurance Amendment \(Lifetime Health Cover Loading and Other Measures\) Bill 2012](#) which would remove the Rebate from the Lifetime Health Cover (LHC) component of hospital cover was introduced to Parliament in late 2012 and referred to the Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs which reported on 12 March 2013 recommending that the bill be passed. Coalition Senators Dean Smith and Concetta Fierravanti-Wells published a dissenting opinion stating that they

believed the primary measure of the Private Health Insurance Amendment (Lifetime Health Cover Loading and Other Measures) Bill 2012 was further evidence of the Governments disregard for the value of private health insurance in Australia's health system. As at 17 May, no further progress had been reported.

National Standards Accreditation Update

All hospitals preparing for accreditation under the National Standards need to note two important new advisories that have recently been approved and are now available on the Commission's website.

- Advisory A13/03: Assessment of Developmental Actions in the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards
- Advisory A13/05: Assessment of training requirements for Credentialed Medical and Other Clinical Practitioners and Visiting Medical Officers

These advisories can be found using the following link <http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/accreditation/accreditation-newsroom/>

Mental Health - New Booklet for Families and Carers

The Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network has released a new booklet for Families and Carers. The booklet has been funded by DoHA and is copyright to the Commonwealth but may be downloaded or printed for use within private hospitals.

To download, visit:

<https://staging.pmha.com.au/Portals/2/PublicDocuments/NetworkProjects/NMHC%20support%20book%202012%20B.pdf>

On the Radar - Issue 126

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:

Keeping hand hygiene high on the patient safety agenda

Deciding when quality and safety improvement interventions warrant widespread adoption

How can we get high quality routine data to monitor the safety of devices and procedures?

An observational study of nurse staffing ratios and hospital readmission among children admitted for common conditions

On the Radar is available via email or as a PDF document from

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-resources/on-the-radar/>