



APHA Vital Signs

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

23 June 2013

APHA Defends Second Tier

In response to a request for advice from DoHA, APHA last week has strongly defended the Second Tier Default Scheme. According to DoHA, the Second Tier default payments account for just 1.1% of total benefits paid by Health Funds. This data confirms our view that the Second Tier Default Scheme does not distort the market but rather that it plays a valuable role in ensuring coverage for patients and promotes competition by reducing barriers to market entry.

The APHA has opposed moves by Health Funds to impose additional requirements on hospitals seeking Second Tier status and criticised the policy that allows Funds not to disclose the rates payable under Second Tier until a hospital has gone 'out of contract'. APHA has also taken issue with the notion that where a Fund holds a contract with a Second Tier qualified hospital for a selective range of services, the Fund is not obliged to pay Second Tier rates for services that are outside that contract.

ACSQHC - National Standards in Mental Health Services – Register Now for Focus Groups

The Commission is running a series of focus groups from July to September in all capital cities and Port Hedland to gather local knowledge about implementation of the National Standards in Mental Health Services.

They will be running groups with people with lived experience of mental health issues and their support people, as well as with service providers. If you wish to register your interest in participating in a focus group, click here: <https://www.research.net/s/9ZYKC9X-EOIScopingStudyFocusGroups>. Questions should be directed to [Andrew Moors](#) or phone (02) 9126 3590

NSW: Report on the Statutory Review of section 7 (4)(c)(i) of the Private Health Facilities Act 2007

In response to advocacy by APHA and member hospitals, the NSW Ministry of Health has tabled a report in Parliament recommending removal of the legislative provision for the Director-General to review private health licencing applications on that basis that the application will result in a lack of a viable, comprehensive or coordinated health system in a clinical or geographical area. The report acknowledges APHA's contention that this provision is anti-competitive. The report also recommends a full review of the Private Health Facilities Act. The Report can be found at: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/la/LATabDoc.nsf/0/4BA25C38165C795ECA257B8E0031508E>

PHAQ's Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Awards

Last week the Private Hospitals Association of Qld hosted their annual Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference which recognises and rewards Non-Clinical and Clinical Innovations in the Private Sector.

Congratulations to APHA's member hospitals; Pindara Private Hospital for winning the Overall and the Non-Clinical Category Awards, and Epworth Eastern Hospital for winning the Clinical Category Award.

NHET-Sim Program Extended to October 2013

The NHET-Sim Program provides government funded e-learning and workshops to health professionals involved in delivering simulation based training. Workshops are available across Australia. A full program of workshops is available at: www.nhet-sim.edu.au. Bookings are essential.

Tasmanian Clinical Education Network

The Simulated Learning Environments Project Team has scheduled two Simulation Workshops for the North West Region of Tasmania on 29 July and 5 August 2013. The workshop covers the following areas:

- Using simulation equipment
- Creating effective scenarios
- Delivering simulation activities

If you are interested in attending please contact Caroline Deakin on 6324 3472 or caroline.deakin@utas.edu.au.

On the Radar - Issue 131

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:

The Listening Organisation: Ensuring care is person-centred in NHS Wales.

Changing care, improving quality: Reframing the debate on reconfiguration Practices to prevent venous thromboembolism: a brief review

Handoff checklists improve the reliability of patient handoffs in the operating room and postanesthesia care unit

Development of a checklist for documenting team and collaborative behaviors during multidisciplinary bedside rounds

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