



## APHA Vital Signs

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

24 March 2013

### **Senate Inquiry: Supply of Chemotherapy Drugs such as Docetaxel**

Last week APHA filed a submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs' inquiry into the Supply of chemotherapy drugs such as Docetaxel highlighting concern that PBS cuts enforced last December to the drug Docetaxel and further cuts scheduled for 1 April put private chemotherapy services at risk.

The submission will be published in due course on the Committee's website. APHA also participated in a stakeholder forum at Parliament House last Wednesday. Although Minister Tanya Pliibersek was unable to attend, she was represented by David Learmonth who listened to the concerns of consumers, oncology professions and industry representatives. The hospital and day surgery sector was well represented by a strong cross-section of large and small chemotherapy providers emphasising the seriousness of this issue.

APHA thanks members for their support in framing our submission and the leadership shown by individual members in standing up on this issue while at the same time putting the needs of patients first. The Inquiry will hold public hearings in Sydney on Thursday 28 March.

For more information, visit:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate\\_Committees?url=clac\\_ctte/chemotherapy\\_drugs/submissions.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=clac_ctte/chemotherapy_drugs/submissions.htm)

### **2014 Specialist Training Program Application Round is now open**

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) is currently taking applications for funding under the Specialist Training Program (STP) which closes at 2pm (EST) on the 1 May 2013.

The Specialist Training Program provides support to enable medical specialist trainees to rotate through an expanded range of settings beyond traditional public teaching hospitals.

This will be an open application round, and will support up to 150 new STP places to commence from 2014.

Applications must be made directly to the DoHA using the standard electronic application. 2014 guidelines, application forms and further details, can be found at the DoHA's website:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Listing+of+Tenders+and+Grants-1>

This application round will be for 2014 and 2015 training years.

All applications for Psychiatry training posts must be accompanied by a letter of support and/or accreditation from their respective State/Territory RANZCP Branch Training Committee

<http://stp.ranzcp.org/stp-application-round/accreditation-of-training-positions>.

Further information is available at the RANZCP's STP website <http://stp.ranzcp.org/home>.

For any queries, please email [STP.Project@ranzcp.org](mailto:STP.Project@ranzcp.org)

### **CLOSING SOON - ACSQHC Consultation Draft Accreditation Workbook for Mental Health Services**

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (the Commission) is seeking feedback from people who have used their Consultation Draft Accreditation Workbook for Mental Health Services.

It download the Workbook, visit the Commission's website at: <http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/mental-health/consultation-of-the-draft-mental-health-accreditation-workbook/>

To provide feedback to the Commission, complete this survey by 30 March 2013:  
<https://www.research.net/s/accreditationworkbookmhs>.

### **Second Tier Renewal Reminder**

Please note that the Second Tier status of some private hospital facilities is due to expire on 30 June 2013. The closing date for applications is Friday, 26 April 2013, and the next meeting date of the Second Tier Advisory Committee is Friday, 24 May. Those hospitals wishing to apply for continued eligibility need to submit an application to the APHA, details regarding the process and a performance application can be downloaded from the APHA website <http://www.apha.org.au/industry-resources/>

Should you require further information please contact Andrea Versteegen at APHA on [andrea.versteegen@apha.org.au](mailto:andrea.versteegen@apha.org.au) or 02 6273 9000.

### **HWA                      Report                      Examiners                      Nursing                      Workforce**

Health Workforce Australia issued the latest report in its Health Workforce series, Nurses in Focus. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of Australia's nursing workforce, drawing together information from the National Health Workforce Dataset: Nurses and midwives 2011, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare nursing and midwifery labour force surveys, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, and the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research.

To download the report, visit:

<https://www.hwa.gov.au/work-programs/information-analysis-and-planning/australias-health-workforce-series/nurses-focus>

### **Save the Date for Private Hospitals Week : 12 – 18 May 2013**

Private Hospitals Week is fast approaching, if you would like to be involved with this year's Private Hospitals Week, please contact Lyndal Bailey at [Lyndal.bailey@apha.org.au](mailto:Lyndal.bailey@apha.org.au) or 02 6273 9000.

### **On the Radar - Issue 119**

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:

*Patient Online: The Road Map*

*Dementia care in hospitals: Costs and strategies*

*Winding back the harms of too much medicine*

*How To Think About Evidence When Deciding Whether To Adopt an Innovation*

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

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