



# APHA Vital Signs

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

25 August 2013

## 2013 Federal Election

On Thursday this week the Coalition released its health policy. Highlights relevant to the hospital sector include:

- Greater community involvement in the management and responsibility of local hospitals;
- Restoration of the Private Health Insurance Rebate as soon as responsibly possible;
- A more efficient funding model for hospitals through activity-based funding;
- Provide 500 additional nursing and allied health scholarships for students and health professional in areas of need as well as \$40 million for 400 medical internships.

For further details, visit:

<http://lpaweb-static.s3.amazonaws.com/13-08-22%20The%20Coalition%E2%80%99s%20Policy%20to%20Support%20Australia%E2%80%99s%20Health%20System.pdf>

Earlier Coalition announcements include commitments in relation to medical research and specific capital commitments.

The Labor Party's health related announcements include:

- Additional funding for 34 cancer care specialist nurse coordinators and funding for cancer care services in WA, QLD, and NT;
- Specific capital commitments including funding for Epworth Geelong Hospital;
- \$8 million for 60 intern places in 2014 in regional and rural hospitals.

Labor has also [published a medical research policy](#).

APHA is preparing a full analysis for members of health related election commitments by all parties.

## APHA Takes Issue with Medibank's Misleading Advertisements

Last Monday, APHA ran a half-page [advertisement](#) in *The Australian* which questioned Medibank's selective use of data appearing to blame hospitals for their own rising costs.

APHA is continuing to inform the public through a social media campaign which launched last week, if you would like to get involved with this campaign, visit: [Australia's Private Hospitals](#) or [priv8hospitals](#).

For more information, visit: <http://www.apha.org.au/2013/08/medibank-ads-misleading-the-public/>

## QLD Health Ombudsman Brings New Accountability

Queenslanders can expect a more accountable health complaints system following the passing of the Health Ombudsman Bill in Parliament last week. The bill will see a Health Ombudsman appointed to oversee the health complaints management system in Queensland and manage serious allegations against health practitioners. Health Minister Lawrence Springborg said the new Ombudsman would help restore public confidence in the health complaints management system by strengthening its transparency and accountability.

For more information, visit: <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2013/8/21/health-ombudsman-brings-new-accountability>

## QCETC Call for Expressions of Interest for Membership

The Queensland Clinical Education and Training Council (QCETC) is seeking an expression of interest (EOI) from people who work in educational institutions, health service organisations and/or services that would like to be a part of the QCETC and contribute to the work now being undertaken to influence health professional education into the future.

Please note that applications close on the 13th of September 2013.

For further information, please contact [Mehrdad Khodai-Joopari](#) on 02 6273 9000.

## Have Your Say on the Future Health Workforce

The Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (CS&HISC) is inviting industry stakeholders to provide input into the 2014 CS&HISC Environmental Scan (EScan).

This is an opportunity for employers to have their say about how changes in policy and service demand are impacting on the current and required health workforce. You can provide comment direct to the Council by completing a [quick online survey](#) which closes on Wednesday 25 September 2013.

APHA will be making a submission to this process guided by the APHA Workforce Taskforce. Members can contribute to the APHA submission by contacting [Mehrdad Khodai-Joopari](#) or [Lucy Cheetham](#) on 02 6273 9000.

## Private Hospital Magazine – December 2013 Edition

APHA is looking for articles for the December 2013 Edition of *Private Hospital* Magazine and would love to hear from your hospital.

The theme for this edition focuses on community involvement from individuals within your hospitals. Here is your chance to feature and show off your wonderful staff and how they relate to your community and any other newsworthy happenings at your facility.

Submissions for the magazine should be around 450 words in length and should be accompanied with high resolution photographs. The deadline for submissions is 14 October 2013.

Please email [Lyndal Bailey](#) with your ideas for articles.

## On the Radar - Issue 140

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:

*Resilient Health Care*

*Partnering with patients to drive shared decisions, better value, and care improvement: Workshop proceedings*

*Proactive Risk Assessment of Surgical Site Infections in Ambulatory Surgery Centers. Final Report*

*Parent willingness to remind health care workers to perform hand hygiene*

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