



APHA Vital Signs

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

27 October 2013

Government Announces Commission of Audit

The Coalition Government on Wednesday announced the terms of reference of the much-anticipated Commission of Audit that will run the ruler over government spending in what Treasurer Joe Hockey and Finance Minister Mathias Cormann said seeks to ensure taxpayers' money is spent wisely and in an efficient manner. The Commission of Audit is being led by Business Council of Australia president Tony Shepherd and is expected to provide an initial report before the end of January next year. The Commission will hold public and private hearings, receive submissions from stakeholders -- including the public -- and liaise directly with government departments.

The terms of reference outline the range of areas the Commission of Audit will examine: Scope of government; Efficiency and effectiveness of government expenditure; State of Commonwealth's finances and medium-term risks to the integrity of the Budget position; Adequacy of existing Budget controls and disciplines; Commonwealth infrastructure; Public sector performance and accountability. "The Government has to be able to live within its means on a sustainable basis over the long term and this is of course what the Commission of Audit has to help us achieve in a calm, methodical and orderly fashion," Senator Cormann said. [Click here](#) to view the Commission of Audit's terms of reference.

Changes to Prostheses List – Effective 8 November - PHI 67/13 and PHI 66/13

APHA this week expressed concern at foreshadowed changes to the Prostheses List effective 8 November. While we understand that most of the changes will be to correct database errors there will also be a significant change in benefits payable for Group 3.8.3.3 – Clips with Disposable Applier with suffix Endoscopic.

Some products in this group will retain the benefit of \$412, whereas others will be listed at \$145. DoHA proposes to publish the benefit details on 1 November 2013 allowing just one week for hospitals to prepare. While respecting the need for adjustment, APHA has taken issue with the process of implementation.

APHA notes that DoHA has issued these circulars this week heeding our request that hospitals be given timely advice of significant changes to the list. However we continue to work with DoHA with the aim of ensuring that the need for updates outside the agreed twice yearly schedule is avoided and that clerical and system errors are eliminated. We have also recommended improvements to consultation and implementation processes.

To view the PHI Circulars, please visit:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2013-index1>

Coalition Commences Scoping Study for Sale of Medibank Private

Last Thursday, The Coalition Government announced that they are committed to the sale of Medibank Private with the commencement of a scoping study. The scoping study will commence by the end of November and will be provided to Government by the end of February 2014. This will enable proper consideration of the sale in the context of the 2014/15 Budget process.

For more information, please visit: http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2013/mr_2013-8.html

APHA Member Forum: Social Media for APHA Member Hospitals & Day Surgeries

APHA will present a number of hands-on workshops on social media for staff working at APHA hospitals and day surgeries. These workshops are free for APHA members and will take place in NSW, VIC, QLD, ACT, SA and WA. To find out more information about the member forum, please visit: <http://www.apha.org.au/2013/10/apha-member-forum-social-media-for-apha-member-hospitals-and-day-surgeries/>

Dates and Venues:

- 21 November 2013 – Canberra – APHA Office
- 27 November 2013 – Sydney – North Shore Private
- 28 November 2013 – Brisbane – Greenslopes Private Hospital
- 2 December – Melbourne – Epworth Richmond
- 4 December - Perth – TBC
- 6 December – Adelaide – Western Hospital

Please RSVP to [Lyndal Bailey](#) as places are limited.

Call for Abstracts: 11th Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference

The Private Hospitals Association of Queensland (PHAQ) extends an open invitation to all private hospitals and day hospitals to consider submitting an abstract for the 2014 Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference and Awards.

PHAQ, in conjunction with HESTA Super Fund, will be hosting this very popular conference at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre on Monday 16 June 2014. It is an event which provides a unique platform to showcase a cross section of innovation in the private hospital sector from around the nation. Abstracts selected for presentation will be eligible for the Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Awards 2014, which will carry a category award prize of \$1,000 to the winning hospital in addition to each of the category winners being eligible for an overall prize of a further \$4,000.

Abstracts are now being sought in 4 broad categories:

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

The closing date for abstract submissions is Friday 21 February 2014. A copy of the guidelines for the submission of abstracts, together with an abstract submission template may be obtained either from the home page of the PHAQ website – www.phaq.org or by contacting Lucy Fisher (07) 3279 7600 – lucyf@phaq.org

Tasmanian Clinical Supervision Support Program: The Quality of Clinical Placements

The Quality Clinical Placement Workshop is an interactive session for all those interested in quality clinical placement experiences for undergraduate students and their clinical supervisors (preceptors). A major focus of the workshop is the development of local action plans for ongoing improvements to clinical placements.

All staff are invited to attend, from across all health professions and sectors.

- 20 November – Hobart - UTas School of Nursing and Midwifery, The Domain
- 26 November – Launceston - The Tramsheds, 4 Invermay Rd, Inveresk
- 27 November – Burnie - Wave Room, Bayviews Restaurant, 1st Floor, North Terrace

Bookings are essential, please contact the Education and Development Centre, THO-S on 62228520 or email: education.centre@dhhs.tas.gov.au

On the Radar - Issue 149

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:

Vital Signs 2013: The State of Safety and Quality in Australian Health Care

Organizational Change to Improve Health Literacy: Workshop Summary

Safely and effectively reducing inpatient length of stay: a controlled study of the General Internal Medicine Care Transformation Initiative

The Strategy That Will Fix Health Care

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