



APHA Vital Signs

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

3 March 2013

APHA 32nd National Congress

Today marks the start of the APHA's 32nd National Congress. If you are at the Congress, make sure to stop by the APHA Exhibition booth. If you are not able to attend the Congress, follow the conversations on Twitter by following #aphacongress. You can also check out photos from the Congress on the Valuing Private Hospitals Facebook page.

APHA Launches New Website

APHA is proud to launch its new website which highlights the latest news affecting private hospitals and the healthcare industry, APHA's *Private Hospital* magazine and social media channels.

To view the new website, visit: <http://www.apha.org.au/>

If you experience any difficulties with the website, please advise APHA's Communications Officer [Lyndal Bailey](#).

Blueprint for the future in Queensland Healthcare

Premier Campbell Newman and Minister for Health, The Honourable Lawrence Springborg have launched a new direction for health services across the State.

The Blueprint noted partnerships with public, private and not-for-profit health providers including:

- Royal Children's Hospital site: market soundings for private sector involvement to create a planned surgical procedures centre will be taken in May. Expressions of Interest are expected to be sought in October, with tenders requested in January.
- Sunshine Coast University Hospital: A review of value for money offered by partnership models and commissioned from the accounting firm, KPMG, will commence on March 4.
- Gold Coast University Hospital: Expressions of Interest for the use of latent space at the facility and tenders for the provision of radiation oncology services will be sought this week.

To read the media releases, visit <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2013/2/27/blueprint-for-the-future-in-queensland-healthcare>

APHA Wants to Know How We Can Help You

Do you need help measuring up against the NCHBOIs? Do you even know what they are? As attention within the sector shifts towards the need to publically report against safety and quality indicators. APHA is reviewing the services it provides so that hospitals are better supported in understanding their performance. APHA invites you to express your views as to the services that you would like APHA to provide by completing a short survey. You can review and complete this survey [online](#) or you can download a [PDF](#) from the APHA website.

IHPA Releases National Efficient Price Determinations

The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) has announced that the national efficient price for 2013-14 is \$4,993 per national weighted activity unit. For the first time, IHPA has also released a national efficient cost for block funded services of \$4.738 million. IHPA's approach to pricing private patients in 2013-14 is unchanged. This is despite vigorous appeals from States including NSW and SA for a relaxation of IHPA's discounting methodology; a move APHA opposed.

IHPA will calculate the NEP for private patients in public hospitals so that the total revenue (including ABF, MBS and private health insurance payments) available to a hospital is equivalent to the NEP for public patients. IHPA has decided that the determination of the NEP for private patients in public hospitals will incorporate state or territory-specific default benefits. IHPA will evaluate opportunities to better utilise HCP data in 2013.

A full copy of the national efficient price and national efficient cost determinations are available on the IHPA website www.iHPA.gov.au.

Round 16 Private Sector NHCDC and the impact on Round 17 timeline.

The timeline for Round 16 have been revised. Costing analysis is now complete and within the next few weeks participants will receive their individual costed results for review and comment prior to the report being finalised and released. Considering the delays in the Round 16 process, IHPA is recalculating the timeline for the Round 17 private sector NHCDC. This means data specifications for Round 17 will not be released by 31 March 2013.

On the Radar - Issue 116

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:

Acting on Concerns: Your Professional Responsibility

*A Closer Look at Associations Between Hospital Leadership Walk rounds and Patient Safety
Climate and Risk Reduction: A Cross-Sectional Study*

Design for patient safety: A guide to the design of the dispensing environment

The use of a standard design medication room to promote medication safety: organizational implications

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

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

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