



APHA Vital Signs

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

4 August 2013

Economic Statement – PHI Rebates

The Treasurer released an Economic Statement on Friday 2 August. One of the items listed as a major change since the May Budget, is Private Health Insurance rebate payments, which are expected to increase by \$184 million in 2013-14 (\$769 million over the four years to 2016-17) reflecting higher take-up rates.

Following the release of this statement, there is increasing speculation that an election will be called by 6:00pm on Sunday 4 August, probably for 7 September.

Review of Funding Arrangements for Chemotherapy Services

On behalf of members, APHA has filed a [submission to the Review of Funding arrangements for Chemotherapy Services](#).

This review is one of vital concern to private hospitals and day clinics providing chemotherapy services as the outcomes will directly impact the ongoing viability of services to cancer patients.

If you have any questions, please contact Lucy Cheetham via lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au or 02 6273 9000.

ACSQHC – Advisory regarding Collection and Reporting of Accreditation Evidence

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has recently issued an advisory regarding the collection and reporting of accreditation evidence by accrediting agencies. The advisory describes the revised options for health service organisations to provide evidence of implementation of the NSQHS Standards to accrediting agencies and the revised requirements for accrediting agencies collecting and reporting on accreditation outcomes and evidence of implementation of the NSQHS Standards.

The changes advised are a result of successful negotiation by APHA and members of the ACSQHC Private Sector Committee and the ACSQHC. The full advisory can be found at: http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Advisory-A13_04.pdf

ABS Released New Private Hospital Statistics

The ABS has released statistics related to [Private hospitals, Australia, 2011-12](#) (Cat. No. 4390.0) on 31 July 2013. Below are some highlights from the report. APHA is updating the relevant fact sheets and documents in the coming days.

The number of Acute and psychiatric hospitals increased by 2 while the Free-standing day hospitals decreased by 3, resulting to a net decrease of 1 private hospital in 2011-12. Overall, there were 592 private hospitals operating in Australia in 2011-12.

Despite a reduction in the number of private hospitals, the number of available beds and chairs increased by 653 to 29,004, an increase of 2.3% since 2010-11.

Since 2010-11, the number of patient days in all private hospitals increased by 1.7% to nearly 9.0

million days. This was mainly caused by a 7.3% increase in the number of same day patients in Acute and Psychiatric hospitals.

Compared with 2010-11, the number of FTE staff decreased by 1.6% to 57,495 in 2011-12.

Second Tier Default Benefits Reminder

The next scheduled meeting of the Second Tier Advisory Committee (STAC) will be held on Friday, 30 August 2013. Those hospitals wishing to apply need to submit an application to APHA by Friday, 9 August 2013. Details regarding the process and a pro forma application form can be downloaded from the [APHA website](#).

The current STAC-approved list of second-tier facilities can be found in Attachment A of the Private Health Insurance (PHI) Circular dated 28 June 2013, available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2013-36>

Should you require further information please contact Andrea Versteegen at APHA on andrea.versteegen@apha.org.au or 02 6273 9000.

On the Radar - Issue 137

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:

Use of health information technology to reduce diagnostic errors

Educational agenda for diagnostic error reduction

Culture Change in Infection Control: Applying Psychological Principles to Improve Hand Hygiene

Building bridges: Future directions for medical error disclosure research

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