



12th February 2012

Means-Testing of Private Health Insurance Rebates

Debate on the legislation to means-test private health insurance rebates commenced last Thursday. However, the Government adjourned the debate after just three speakers.

Many media reports on Friday speculated that the Government had the numbers to pass the legislation. APHA held numerous meetings with key players at Parliament House last week and at the time of writing, was unaware of any evidence to indicate the legislation would pass, as not all of the Independent MPs had declared a final position.

A meeting with Independent MP, Rob Oakeshott, is being organised for next week when Parliament resumes.

Nursing and Midwifery Information Portal

Health Workforce Australia (HWA) has been working in partnership with stakeholders to support 2011 nursing and midwifery graduates across Australia to find employment. HWA are seeking your support and assistance to ensure the Nursing and Midwifery Informational Portal website provides employer links for new Nursing and Midwifery Graduates to view positions that are appropriate.

The benefits of this website to employers include:

- Graduate recruitment processes
- Current vacancies suitable for graduates
- Graduate support program
- Brand as an employer of choice

Please email Austin@hwa.gov.au for more information.

Save the Date – Private Hospitals Week 2012 – 26-30 March 2012

Private Hospitals Week 2012 will be marked from **26-30 March 2012**. APHA is currently working on the details, preparing toolkits for Champions and developing materials for hospitals. Further details will come out during February, but mark your diaries now. If your hospital is not currently signed up to the Valuing Private Hospitals campaign and wants to celebrate Private Hospitals Week 2012, please contact Lisa Ramshaw at APHA on ramshaw@apha.org.au.

ACSQHC Medication Safety Update

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's latest *Medication Safety Update February 2012* is available here:

[://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/com-pubs_medication_safety_update_feb2012](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/com-pubs_medication_safety_update_feb2012)

Call for Abstracts – 9th Innovative Practice in the Private Sector

Just a reminder that the closing date for abstract submissions for the 9th Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference and Awards is Monday 20th February 2012. A Call for Abstracts flyer,

together with abstract submission guidelines for the 9th Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference to be held on Monday 18 June 2012 in Brisbane can be found at .phaq.org.

In 2012, there will be four categories, with a prize of \$1,000 to each category winner. In addition, each of the category award winners will be eligible for the overall award which will carry a further \$4,000 prize to the winning hospital, judged by their peers.

The four categories are:

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

PHAQ gratefully acknowledges the support of our major sponsor HESTA Super Fund for generously providing the prizes.

Innovative practice need not necessarily involve major projects – practical solutions to common problems will also be considered for presentation, however there will be a focus on demonstrated outcomes. Small Hospitals, Day Hospitals and hospitals from interstate, are encouraged to submit.

Labelling in the perioperative sterile field

Abbreviated container label suitable for sterilisation within CSSD units are available. This product is on a removable adhesive and withstands 134 degrees celcius for 4 minutes without the face stock, adhesive or ink being affected. For more information please email @access.net.au

National Mental Health Recovery Forum 21-22 June 2012

The National Mental Health Recovery Forum is being held on 21 – 22 June 2012 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The National Mental Health Recovery Forum aims to motivate and support leaders in developing strategies to inform and implement the delivery of recovery services within the mental health system.

For further details email .daffey@health.vic.gov.au.