



# APHA Vital Signs

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

19 February 2012

## Means-testing of the Private Health Insurance Rebate

As advised by Member Bulletin last week, the legislation giving effect to the means-testing of private health insurance rebates was passed by the House of Representatives last Wednesday. The legislation will now move to the Senate where it is expected to pass with the support of the Greens. The Government moved one amendment to the Bill, changing the start date to 1 July 2012.

On Thursday, APHA CEO, Michael Roff participated in a media conference with the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Tony Abbott MP to discuss the impacts of the legislation. Mr Abbott confirmed his commitment to abolish means-testing if the Coalition wins the next election.

## APHA appoint Councilors and Board Member

Following an out of session resolution of the Council in accordance with the provisions of the APHA constitution, Robert Cooke, Michael Coglein and Andrew Currie from Healthscope, have been appointed to the council representing the For Profit Large Group electorate. In addition, Mr Cooke has been appointed to a vacancy on the APHA Board.

## PHIAC data - headlines from December quarter 2011

The Private Health Insurance Administration Council (PHIAC) released its quarterly statistics for the December quarter of 2011 on 15th February 2012. The highlights can be found in the members area of the APHA website: [://www.apha.org.au/members/information-paper-series/](http://www.apha.org.au/members/information-paper-series/)

## Private Hospitals Week – Register your event!

There are five weeks to go until Private Hospitals Week (26-30 March 2012). This year's focus will be on recognising and celebrating the vital and valued role of private hospitals in their communities. We are encouraging hospitals to host an event that reaches out to the community to showcase the great work that they do. The first 50 hospitals to register their event on the members' area of the APHA website: [.apha.org.au](http://www.apha.org.au) will receive a special Campaign event pack for their hospital containing an outdoor banner, aprons, stickers, balloons and streamers. If you are having trouble logging into the members area of the website, email [.angove@apha.org.au](mailto:angove@apha.org.au).

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](mailto:ramshaw@apha.org.au).

## NMS 2012 reminder - abstract submissions close 20 February

National Medicines Symposium 2012 is happening on the 24-25 May 2012 and is calling for abstract submissions. Visit the website for further details and abstract submission instructions [://www.nps.org.au/](http://www.nps.org.au/) or email [@expertevents.com.au](mailto:@expertevents.com.au) for more information.

## 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](mailto:Austin@hwa.gov.au) for more information.

### **Call for Abstracts – 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.