



APHA Vital Signs

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

26 August 2012

Vale Sue Feeney

Sue Feeney, former APHA Board member and CEO of New Farm Clinic in Queensland, passed away late on Thursday 23 August after a prolonged period of illness having been diagnosed with cancer several years ago. Ms Feeney made a major contribution to the private hospital sector and to mental health in particular. She will be greatly missed by her family and a wide circle of friends and colleagues across the industry.

APHA Seeks New Communications Officer

APHA's Communications Officer, Rebecca Angove has decided to move to the UK in September to continue to develop her PR and marketing career. All of us at APHA will be sad to see her leave but wish her all the best for an exciting and fun-filled time in London. With Rebecca's imminent departure, APHA is now looking for a new Communications Officer. The details of the position, selection criteria and application instructions can be found on the APHA website at <http://www.apha.org.au/2010/01/news-item/> and the closing date for applications is **7 September 2012**.

Quarterly PHIAC Update - June quarter of 2012

APHA's report on the PHIAC data from the June quarter is available at the following link: <http://www.apha.org.au/members/information-paper-series/>

If there is any extra analysis you would like to see, such as additional trend data, please let APHA's Research and Data Manager know by emailing him at mehrdad.khodai@apha.org.au.

PHI Circular 56/12 - Publication of the August 2012 Protheses list – update

The Private Health Insurance (Protheses) Rules 2012 (No. 2) ('the Rules') are now available on the Department of Health and Ageing's website.

Until the Rules have been registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) and commence on 30 August 2012, the Rules do not represent the Law. The registration process is currently being undertaken by FRLI and it is expected that the Rules will be registered on 22 August 2012. The August 2012 Protheses List is available on the Department's website at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/protheses-list-pdf.htm>.

If you require further information please telephone 24 hour answering machine (02) 6289 9853 or email the enquiry to the Private Health Insurance Branch.

ACCC conditionally authorises collective bargaining for small private hospitals

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has granted conditional authorisation to allow prospective members of the Private Hospital Collective Bargaining Group to bargain collectively with suppliers and health funds. The condition limits the size of the bargaining group nationally and also its concentration in each state. It would also allow the hospitals to share certain information for benchmarking purposes. Copies of the PHCBG's application and submissions received are available from the ACCC's website www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister

On the Radar - Issue 93

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:

Learning from large-scale quality improvement through comparisons

A review of hospital characteristics associated with improved performance

International Journal for Quality in Health Care

Determinants of success of quality improvement collaboratives: what does the literature show?

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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