



26 February 2012

APHA Board and Taskforces hold first meetings for 2012

The APHA Board, and the Policy and Advocacy, Workforce, Safety and Quality and Communications and Marketing Taskforces held their first meetings for the year over the past fortnight. The Psychiatric Committee will meet in March, and APHA is also pressing for an early meeting of the National Consultative Committee on Private Rehabilitation. A primary focus of these meetings was the changes in the operational landscape brought about by the last minute decision of Independent MP Rob Oakeshott to support the means testing of private health insurance and so allow the government to pass the means testing legislation in Parliament.

Taskforces also discussed priorities for the year ahead, such as Private Hospitals Week, fast-approaching in March, national safety and quality standards, workforce pressures, the review of the Fair Work Act, and the need for recognition and support for private hospital pharmacy. The Taskforce priorities will feed into the development of APHA's Strategic Plan for 2012-2013, which will be developed by the APHA Council at its meeting in 3 April.

APHA Makes Submission on Activity Based Funding

APHA has made a submission to the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority on the draft Framework for the introduction of Activity Based Funding to public hospitals. The suggested framework deals with setting a price for the treatment of private patients in public hospitals, and it is this aspect to which our submission pays most attention. APHA maintains its policy position that wherever possible private patients ought to be treated in private hospitals, and that public hospitals should not divert resources away from treating public patients to efforts to attract more private patients. APHA notes that the draft Framework acknowledges the need for neutrality in pricing services for public and private patients in the public sector. To read our submission go to: [://www.apha.org.au/advocacy/submissions/](http://www.apha.org.au/advocacy/submissions/)

The IHPA's -paper on ABF may be downloaded at:

[://www.iHPA.gov.au/internet/iHPA/publishing.nsf/Content/draft-pricing-framework](http://www.iHPA.gov.au/internet/iHPA/publishing.nsf/Content/draft-pricing-framework)

APHA Congress postponed to 2013

The APHA Board recently decided to postpone the 2012 APHA National Congress and move it to the early part of 2013. Dates and venues will be sent to members and other interested parties as soon as they are set, but there will not be an APHA National Congress in October 2012.

PHI Circular 09/12 - February 2012 Prostheses List

The purpose of this Circular is to inform the health industry that:

- The delegate of the Minister for Health and Ageing has made rules giving effect to a new version of the Prostheses List (February 2012); and
- The February 2012 Prostheses List commences on 3 March 2012.

PHI Circulars are now available via the following link:

[://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2012-index1](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2012-index1)

eHealth brochures now available

In preparation for the launch of the eHealth records program on 1 July 2012, the Department of Health and Ageing has released brochures for consumers and health professionals.

The brochures explain eHealth records in greater detail, outlines what the key benefits an eHealth record will bring and describes what consumers and health professionals need to do to get ready for 1 July 2012. To view the brochures visit: [.yourhealth.gov.au/ehealth](http://yourhealth.gov.au/ehealth)

Private Hospitals Week – Register your event!

There are four 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 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.

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.

HESTA Australian Nursing Awards

Do you have a remarkable nurse at your hospital? If you know an exceptional nurse, midwife, personal care attendant or assistant in nursing then recognise their efforts by nominating them for one of three awards:

- Nurse of the Year
- Innovation in Nursing
- Graduate Nurse of the Year.

There is up to \$30,000 in prizes to be won. Nominations close **29 February 2012**, see .hestanursingawards.com for nomination forms.