



# APHA Vital Signs

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

4 November 2012

## Results of the APHA Board Election 2012

At the meeting of the APHA Council on Monday 30 October in Sydney, elections were held for the APHA Board with results as follows:

- President: Chris Rex
- Vice President: Richard Royle
- Chair of Council: Geoff Sam
- Treasurer: Philip Currie
- Policy and Advocacy Taskforce: Richard Royle
- Safety and Quality Taskforce Chair: Christine Gee
- Communications and Marketing Taskforce Chair: Anne Crouch
- Workforce Taskforce Chair: Danny Sims
- Alan Cooper
- Robert Cooke

In addition it was noted that Christine Gee will continue to chair the APHA Psychiatric Committee while Bronwyn Mace will chair the APHA Rehabilitation Committee.

New members of the Council, Nick Warden and Bronwyn Mace were welcomed and a vote of thanks was recorded for outgoing Board Member and Councillor Stephen Walker and outgoing Councillors Mark Stephens and George Toemoe.

## Proposed Changes to PHI Rebate Indexation

In the Mid Year Economic and Financial Outlook, the Government announced changes to the indexation of private health insurance rebates that would erode the value of the rebate over time.

Last Wednesday, APHA President, Chris Rex and CEO, Michael Roff spent the day lobbying key federal MPs in Canberra in relation to these measures. They explained that these changes were regressive as they affect every health fund member regardless of income, but the impact will be felt most acutely by the 3.4 million Australians with health insurance who have an annual household income of less than \$35,000. In addition, coming on top of means-testing of the rebates, there is likely to be a cumulative impact in terms of membership drop outs and downgrades.

Members who would like a briefing paper on the impact of these measures should contact Lucy Cheetham at APHA on [lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au](mailto:lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au)

## PBS Funding for Chemotherapy Drugs

Ahead of foreshadowed changes to the PBS rates for key chemotherapy drugs effective from 1 December the APHA wrote to both the Department of Health and Ageing and Minister Tanya Plibersek seeking urgent action to ensure that funding for chemotherapy services is placed on a sustainable footing. This week working closely with the Pharmacy Guild, APHA has met with representatives of the Department of Health and Ageing, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and key members of parliament to emphasise that issues identified in 2009 remain unaddressed. Some of the savings obtained through price disclosure must now be reinvested in

the interests of ensuring safe and sustainable service delivery. It is urgent that this issue not be overlooked in pursuit of a budget surplus.

### **Next Second Tier Advisory Committee Meeting**

The next Second Tier Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Friday, 30 November 2012. The closing date for applications to be received by the Department of Health and Ageing is Friday, 9 November 2012. Information which must be included in applications is outlined in the Second Tier Default Benefits Application Guide 2011 located on the Australian Private Hospitals Association website at: <http://www.apha.org.au>. Select Advocacy; Resources.

### **Reminder: Psychiatric Hospitals - Borderline Personality Disorder Survey**

A reminder to all hospitals providing psychiatric services, if you have yet to participate in the Private Mental Health Alliance survey on the treatment of patients with Borderline Personality Disorder, please do so before 11 November. This survey has been endorsed by the APHA Psychiatric Committee.

For further information contact Ellie Rosenfeld, PMHA Senior Research Officer, Email: [ellie.rosenfeld@pmha-cdms.com.au](mailto:ellie.rosenfeld@pmha-cdms.com.au)

### **Have a job at your hospital that you would like to advertise?**

APHA has a jobs board on our website and currently we do not have any jobs to advertise. Job listings are free for APHA hospital members and are another great benefit of APHA hospital membership. If you have a job vacancy that you would like to advertise, please contact Lyndal Bailey, APHA's Communications Officer on [Lyndal.bailey@apha.org.au](mailto:Lyndal.bailey@apha.org.au).

### **On the Radar - Issue 103**

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:

*Designing for Patient Safety: Developing Methods to Integrate Patient Safety Concerns in the Design Process*

*Health Care Professionals as Second Victims After Adverse Events: A Systematic Review*

*Smartphone use during inpatient attending rounds: Prevalence, patterns and potential for distraction*

*Measuring Adverse Events and Levels of Harm in Pediatric Inpatients With the Global Trigger Tool*

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