

CPMC News

JUNE 2015



Welcome to the CPMC Newsletter

CPMC is comprised of all fifteen specialist Medical Colleges in Australia with almost half having bi-national status with New Zealand. As CEO, I am pleased to be able to provide you with a regular update on what's happening in Canberra, outcomes of meetings attended, consultations and various other issues which may be of interest to you. Please let me know if you would like to include an item from your College which may have particular interest to us all. I expect to be able to profile a person in each monthly newsletter commencing August. The following structure is to be found within this newsletter:

1. Government Relations Update
2. Ministerial Press Releases/announcements
3. Workforce Issues and Training
4. Policies and Procedures Update
5. Safety & Quality Update
6. Qantas
7. Interesting Issues- Member Profile

Angela Magarry, CEO

1. Government Relations Update

A major focus of the 2015 Federal Budget is on consolidating areas for efficiency purposes and to reduce duplication of effort. CPMC received a budget briefing at the recent meeting from representatives of the Australian Government concerning the 2015-16 Health Portfolio Budget Statements. You can read more about these at the following site:

http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/2015-2016_Health_PBS

On 4 June, 2015 the Minister announced the composition of the advisory groups to review Medicare. Congratulations to those CPMC member Presidents on their appointment to the expert advisory groups. Consultation is anticipated. For further information

see: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/healthiermedicare>

As flagged in February by the new Health Secretary, there will be a rationalisation and streamlining exercise to health programmes in order to re-position the Department making \$962.8 million in savings. The measures will affect the Health Portfolio Flexible Funds, dental workforce programmes, preventative health research, cease GP Super Clinics.

There is a large contribution by the Health portfolio to the Governments 'smaller government' theme with savings predicted of \$113 million over five years through the following measures:

- Creating operational efficiencies in the delivery of corporate services by amalgamating the corporate and legal services of the TGA into the Department;
- Creasing activities in the Department that mirror the work of other agencies eg IHPA, AOTD, NHPA, the AIHW, the Safety Commission and NH&MRC
- Ceasing the Lead Clinicians Group from 1 July 2015 (CPMC was never on this)
- Rationalising the structure of the Department to more effectively respond to the Governments health priorities. This includes business and financial management support functions, reducing contractor costs and merging everyone into the one Department. Expectation is a staff FTE reduction of one third over four years.

As was flagged in February, the Departmental Executives are keen to develop their own in-house data analytical, economics and research capacity. They will achieve this by investing \$10 million into engaging external expertise and developing links with other Government agencies.

The MBS Freeze: The Health Minister says she expects vulnerable people to still be protected despite the freeze on the MBS, estimated to save \$413 million in funding for standard GP consults over the next 3 years. The Minister has also indicated that there is nothing to stop GPs from choosing to charge on top of the MBS rate and make that determination based on a person's ability to pay.

2. Ministerial Press Releases-Announcements

Health Minister: The Hon. Sussan Ley has released a plan to address *antibiotic overuse*.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2015-ley066.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2015&mth=06>

The government introduced the **Medical Research Future Fund** on 27 May, and Subject to the passage of legislation, the Medical Research Future Fund will be established from 1 August, 2015.

Read the press release here at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2015-lev062.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2015&mth=05>

Reform to the **Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme** has been announced under the Access and Sustainability Package which is aimed at enabling cheaper medicines and a more competitive pharmacy sector. Read more here at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2015-lev063.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2015&mth=05>

The Government has announced new funding for after-hours PIP services (22 May 2015). Read more here at:

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/F2D0AE1963DBA7B2CA257E4D001A88C0/\\$File/SL058.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/F2D0AE1963DBA7B2CA257E4D001A88C0/$File/SL058.pdf)

The Hon. Fiona Nash: The Assistant Health Minister has commenced an information gathering exercise on all aspects of the ICE issue. She has announced some incentives for attracting and retaining rural doctors. You can read her releases at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/the-hon-fiona-nash-latest-news>

3. Workforce Issues & Medical Training

The National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) met on 19 May, 2015 in Melbourne. While the minutes are not open for wide dissemination, CPMC can report that there will be a sub-committee of NMTAN established to support the work previously undertaken by the Medical Training Review Panel (MTRP), and provide advice on the annual report on medical education and on other data projects.

The chronic disease sub-committee has a new Chair with Professor Richard Doherty taking on the role and some of the work will involve liaising with the Government's Primary Health Care Advisory Group. A scoping paper has been produced to guide the work of this group and it is anticipated that a draft policy paper will be presented to NMTAN in late 2016.

Psychiatry modeling project is underway looking at workforce projections for this specialty area in close consultation with the RANZCP.

The Department has developed a Capacity Analysis Tool to enable easy and quick visualisation of large data sets and while it has been well received as a useful tool there are a couple of limitations as the data is static. There will be some work with Colleges to try and obtain more regular updates possibly using regions.

A series of medical specialty fact sheets have been developed. These sheets will form the basis of a series of career planning resources for students, graduates, doctors-in-training, international medical students, and overseas trained doctors. The source is Health Workforce 2025- Volume 3 – Medical Specialties however some additional information will be added to take into consideration the updated information available from Colleges and other sources. CPMC has asked that these fact sheets are provided to all affected Colleges before release to act as a final checking point for the Department. After that they will be on the Department's website.

The Review of Medical Intern Training is underway and as previously advised the Options Paper 2 is due for feedback to CPMC Secretariat on 30 June to assist with the consultation forum on 2 July.

Formal feedback is however due to the COAG Review Team by 15 July.

CPMC has a plan to convene another Strategic Forum for CEOs before the August CPMC meeting. A date claimer will be issued once the invitations to the various Departmental representatives have been accepted.

CPMC is to meet with the MBA's Chair, Dr Joanna Flynn on 18 June to discuss inter alia, the concept revalidation for Australia and receive an update on what progress has occurred by the CAMERA team from the UK. An update will be sent to you all after that meeting.

4. Policies and Procedures Update

Bullying and Harassment: The AMA Roundtable concerning Sexual Harassment in the Medical Workplace held recently was considered to be a very constructive event and in correspondence from the President of the AMA, Associate Professor Brian Owler, there was a strong commitment to tackling the problem. In responding to the AMA's call for CPMC to take leadership in this area, the Chair, Professor Hollands, wrote to the AMA indicating that dealing with bullying and any forms of harassment in the workplace are very important issues for specialist Medical Colleges and had already been discussed at recent meetings. The work being undertaken by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has allowed other Colleges to learn more and take pieces of information as they require in order to feed into or strengthen their existing policies and procedures. Further information concerning the high quality approach taken by RACS in addressing this matter can be found at: <http://www.surgeons.org/about/discrimination,-bullying-and-harassment/>

RACMA has advised on their statement on Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination which can be found at: http://racma.edu.au/index.php?option=com_inews&act=mailing&task=view&mailingid=474

Consultation Open: The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) has advised that it will soon open consultation on a draft version of the revised and updated *Clinical Practice Guideline for Mood Disorders*. The guideline has been developed specifically for psychiatrists. The RANZCP will be releasing a guide for the community at a later date. Look out for their email.

5. Safety and Quality

CPMC receives correspondence on consultations occurring by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in HealthCare and it is understood all Colleges also receive these for their individual consideration and feedback. Where possible the team at the ACSQHC request to meet with Colleges and the recent discussion with Nicola Dunbar concerning their project on the deteriorating patient is an example of where direct consultation can occur. CPMC Chair will meet with the CEO, Professor Deborah Picone to progress issues raised by the members and he will report back to the next CPMC on the outcome of this meeting.

Homeopathy

The RACGP has announced that GPs should not prescribe or recommend homeopathic treatments and that pharmacists should not be selling them. At the recent CPMC meeting a good discussion occurred regarding the release of the RACGP Position Statement on Homeopathy which was developed in response to the NHMRC Review findings of no evidence to indicate its effectiveness in treating any health conditions. You will recall that Dr Frank Jones indicated that the College was particularly concerned about the homeopathic vaccinations on the market. The process of common endorsement of the RACGP Position Statement is occurring. In the meantime you can read about it here: <http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/news/media-releases/homeopathy/>

Deregulating Pharmacy Locations and Ownership

The RACGP and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians have partnered with the Consumers Health Forum in a joint submission to the Federal Health Minister regarding the deregulation of pharmacy locations and ownership. You can read the letter here:

<https://www.chf.org.au/pdfs/chf/LetterRACGP-RACP-CHF-Minister-March15.pdf>

6. QANTAS AGREEMENT

CPMC has for some years held a contract with Qantas Airways Limited to manage corporate travel. You will be aware of the domestic deals on offer as well as business and international discounts.

On Friday 5 June, 2015 CPMC CEO and the Qantas National Strategic Sales Manager met to discuss the performance against the current agreement. I am pleased to report that targets have been reached and based on the changes which have occurred in the connection with Emirates, CPMC will receive an updated offer on international travel discounts. Your authorised travel agent will receive these once they are developed. I will also release that information to College CEOs.

You will recall that in February, Qantas posted a \$206 million profit for the first half of the 2014-15 financial year and is on track to retain that profitability.

7. INTERESTING ISSUES

In July there will be a few shifts and shuffles in the management of the Colleges with long-serving ANZCA CEO, Linda Sorrell departing the organisation; ACEM's CEO Alana Killen shifting over to RANZCOG; and interviews happening for their replacements. CPMC wishes Linda well in her future endeavours.

In future editions of the CPMC newsletter there will be a member profile. We will also provide an update on any international issues as well as a report from the New Zealand Council of Medical Colleges.