

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS OF MEDICAL COLLEGES

CPMC NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

Chair's Welcome to the CPMC News



I welcome you to the June 2019 CPMC News which features information for Colleges and interested stakeholders on the key policy issues facing specialist Medical Colleges in Australia. All Presidents actively participate in the work of CPMC as well as representing CPMC in the various spheres of influence. You can view the May Communique here: <https://cpmc.edu.au/council-media/>

Dr Philip Truskett, AM

NEW COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

I warmly welcome two new College Presidents to the CPMC.

Associate Professor David Francis



In May Dr David Francis became the new President of the Australasian College of Dermatologists. He has been a Fellow of the ACD for more than 25 years. A graduate from the University of Queensland Dr Francis is a Visiting Consultant at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital where he teaches dermatologic surgery. He is also in private practice.

I thank Dr Andrew Miller for his outstanding contribution to the work of the CPMC.

Dr Anthony 'Tony' Sparnon



In May Dr Anthony Sparnon was made the new President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Dr Sparnon is a paediatric surgeon specialising in burns. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Dr Sparnon joined Council in 2012. He is the past President of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Paediatric Surgeons. He is a life member of the Australian and New Zealand Burn Association.

I want to thank Dr John Batten for his contribution to the work of the CPMC.

You can view the full listing and profiles of all Council Directors at: <https://cpmc.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Members-Page-Directors.pdf>

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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE: 2nd Morrison Ministry Announced



The Second Morrison Government has formed with the Cabinet comprising twenty-three members, seven of whom are female. The reappointment of Minister Greg Hunt as Minister for Health has been welcomed. In his statement Minister pointed to the excellent work of doctors, nurses and medical researchers in helping to protect patients and save lives. The task ahead will be to build upon the implementation of the Long Term National Health Plan with an emphasis on guaranteeing Medicare and supporting hospitals. The Minister has highlighted three particular areas of focus: putting new medicines on the PBS; strengthening support for mental health, and especially youth mental health and suicide prevention; and, delivering on the ten year Medical Research Strategic Plan.

Royal Commission into Aged Care will be managed by Senator Richard Colbeck as Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians. He also takes on Minister for Youth and Sport.

CPMC warmly congratulates Minister Ken Wyatt on his appointment as **Minister for Indigenous Australians** and looks forward to continuing to work with him on Indigenous Health matters.

The new Ministerial line-up will alter the portfolio responsibilities for the Australian Public Service with the expectation that new agencies will be established. It is expected that Minister Hunt will also cover rural health and we look forward to working with him to further consolidate on the excellent work occurring through the Support for Rural Specialists in Australia grant program. Senator Bridget McKenzie has moved to become Australia's first female Minister for Agriculture.

2019 Parliamentary Sitting Calendar is delayed because the Writs have yet to be returned. Under the Constitution the new Parliament must meet no later than 30 days after the last day appointed for the return of the writs.

MEDICAL REGULATION UPDATE

Professional Performance Framework

The Medical Board of Australia is continuing its work developing the PPF and will soon commence preliminary consultation on the revised CPD registration standard that includes the proposed changes outlined in the framework. The Board is convening a stakeholder forum in late June to discuss it all. On the issue of Health Checks for the +70 year doctors, the Board has established a Clinical Advice Committee to develop the clinical advice on the physical and cognitive components and the criteria and tools for cognitive screening, including who should conduct these checks.

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Changes to Mandatory Reporting

In February 2019 the Queensland Parliament passed National Law amendments to the mandatory reporting requirements for treating practitioners and the threshold for reporting a doctor's impairment will lift. CPMC is on the AHPRA Professions Reference Group and has been advised that AHPRA and the National Boards are developing two pieces of work to prepare for the implementation of these amendments: amend the guidelines; and undertake an awareness campaign. If the impairment is likely to affect the doctor's practice and pose a substantial risk to the public, then a notification is required. The rules currently in place are still to be adhered to as outlined on the AHPRA website: <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Notifications/Raise-a-concern/Mandatory-notifications.aspx>

HEALTH & MEDICAL WORKFORCE UPDATE

A National Medical Workforce Strategy under development concludes consultations

The Commonwealth Department of Health is leading the development of the National Medical Workforce Strategy. It was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments Health Council at their 8 March 2019 meeting, following endorsement from the Health Services Principal Committee and the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Committee. The NMTAN has reformed into the Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC) set up to guide this work and ensure continuity of oversight of the Strategy from development through to implementation. The project to develop the Strategy has a scoping framework phase to be completed by **30 June 2019** and then later, the development of the Strategy itself by **late 2020**.

CPMC has actively participated in the consultative process to assist the consultants in identifying the key policy themes to be addressed by the strategy. Targeted consultation forums have occurred across key centres in Australia. An update on progress will be provided in each CPMC newsletter.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Medical Workforce Plan which was agreed to by COAG Health Council in March 2019 is underway in full consultation with key stakeholders. A draft is to be submitted to the next CHC Indigenous Roundtable in July. The plan will reflect consideration to-date on the gaps and opportunities relating to the attraction, training and retention of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce.

The Implementation of a National Rural Generalist Pathway: commencing January 2020

In March 2019, \$62.2 million over four years was announced as a first step towards a National Rural Generalist Pathway. The funds will cover three core initiatives:

- Coordination units within each jurisdiction, which will improve workforce supply by coordinating the training pipeline for rural generalists.
- An expansion of the Rural Junior Doctor Training Innovation Fund to increase retention of medical staff through early exposure to rural training.
- Funding to assist the process of seeking recognition of Rural Generalism as a Specialised Field within the Specialty of General Practice.

The Work to seek formal recognition of Rural Generalism through the Medical Board of Australia will be led by the two GP colleges, working with the National Rural Health Commissioner.

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Health Care Policy Update

Improving the Transparency in Out of Pocket Costs

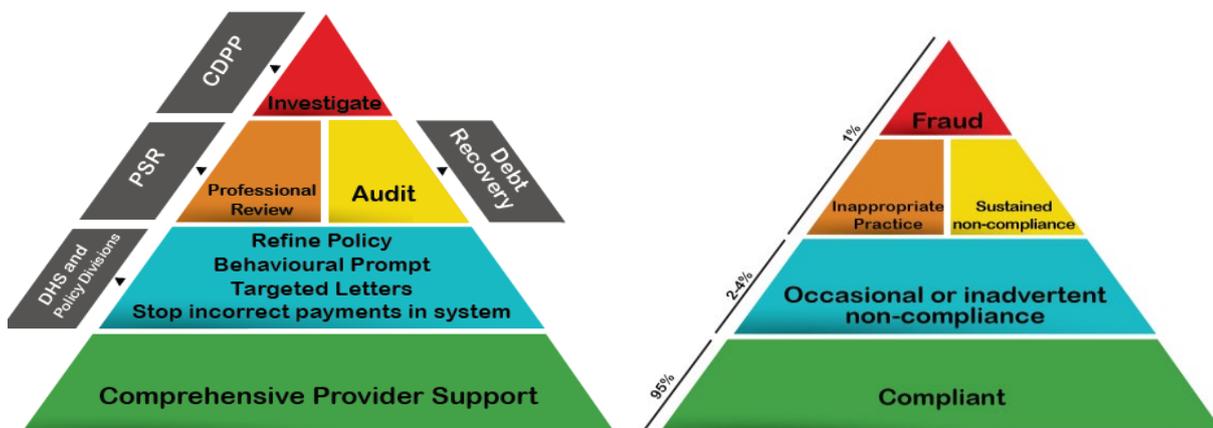
Based on a report from the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Out of Pocket Costs the Government made several announcements about more information on medical specialist's fees being made available so the general public can be better informed when choosing a specialist through their doctor. While consultation continues with leaders in the medical profession, several websites or links will be developed providing information on costs and services at the individual practice level; the range of costs for specialist treatments using de-identified aggregates government data. The individual disclosure website is voluntary, nationally searchable and will include related Medicare rebates and whether the specialists participate in health insurance 'gap' arrangements.

Practice Incentives Program Quality Improvement Incentives: \$201.5M over 5 yrs

General practices will be able to receive funding to undertake continuous quality improvement through the collection and review of practice data. There is already work underway with sharing of data between practices in concert with their local Primary Health Network (PHN) to improve patient care. Enrolling in the PIP QI means GPs commit to its implementation and to providing nationally consistent data against agreed key improvement measures aimed at contributing to improved local, regional and national health outcomes. The 1 August 2019 implementation date will ensure smooth transition. There are currently eleven PIP incentives, and from 31 July four will cease (asthma, cervical screening, diabetes and quality prescribing).

MEDICARE COMPLIANCE: Funding of \$105.9 million was announced in April 2019 to support the Provider Benefits Integrity Division of the Department's work to consult on strategies for seven key provider groups as part of the policy to strengthen Medicare. The process will support expanded data-matching, better targeted compliance interventions, an expansion of investigation capacity including the Professional Services Review and support for the AskMBS email service. The aim is to protect Australia's health payments system through the prevention, identification and treatment of incorrect claiming.

PBID Behavioural compliance approach



You can read more at: <https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-compliance>

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Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce Update

The MBS Review Taskforce has concluded consultation on allied health, mental health, nurse practitioners and participating midwives. The concerns held with respect to the recommendations included in the Specialist and Consultant Physician Consultations Clinical Committee have been lodged with government. A good overview of the concerns can be found at:

<https://ama.com.au/ausmed/mbs-review-consultation-%E2%80%93-specialist-and-consultant-physicians>

Changes to the MBS from the recommendations of the Taskforce are planned to be implemented from 1 March 2020. Professor Bruce Robinson has recently spoken to the Australian Doctor about the MBS review.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Engineers are reportedly developing micrometre-sized submarines to deliver drugs to specific areas in the human body, therefore more easily deliver medicine to affected organs, according to a report by the UNSW (<https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/science-tech/submarines-small-enough-deliver-medicine-inside-human-body>)

FYI CPMC Professions Observer Forum is now a Half Day Session 9-12MD



A listing of members: https://cpmc.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Complete_Contacts_Lists_CPMC.pdf

