

First Impressions

ISSUE 13
JUNE 2008

The News in Brief

REACTION TO THE FEDERAL BUDGET 2008/2009

Jennie Brockie, on the SBS television program Insight (news.sbs.com.au/insight/) ran a program 'Pulling Teeth' that asked the question..

Should dental treatment be covered by Medicare? Would you be prepared to pay a higher Medicare levy if dental treatment was included?

This program was in part instigated through the concerns that were raised in the media in regards the lack of funding given to individual states to combat the ever increasing decline of Oral Health in Australia.

The 'Commonwealth Dental Health Plan' has been established to provide \$290 million over three years, (\$92 in this financial year) to all States and Territories to supplement existing public services. The government believes this will fund up to one million additional dental consultations to help reduce public dental waiting lists providing priority services to individuals with chronic diseases affected by poor oral health, providing timely preventative and emergency services and to maintain current effort.

As you can see from the Published Medicare Statistics regarding the enhanced Medicare items for patients with chronic conditions and complex care needs on page 2 this funding is far from adequate.

FOR YOUR DIARY

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|-----------------------|--|
| June 5th | ADPAQ Information Night
Dr Ngheim Doan,
Senior Lecturer
Griffith University
'Implantology' and
'Public Health Dentistry' |
| July
18, 19 + 20th | ADPAQ CONFERENCE
Palm Cove, Far North QLD
'Back to Basics'
EARLY BIRD FAST APPROACHING! |
| August
7th | ADPAQ Information Night
Kim Forrester
'Law, Ethics and your
Professional Practice' |
| September
12th | ADPAQ Study Group
Sunshine Coast |
| October
2nd | ADPAQ Information Night
Duncan DuBuisson
Topic to be confirmed |
| November
14th | ADPAQ Study Group
Gold Coast |
| December
6th | ADPAQ AGM
Clinic Afternoon
Tour of new Teaching
facilities at Southbank
Institute of Technology
Christmas Dinner
Rydges Southbank |
| August 2009 | 20th Biennial ADPA
Conference
Grand Chancellor
Hobart Tasmania
BE A DEVIL - COME ON DOWN |



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FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

FRIDAY 4TH – SUNDAY 6TH 2008

The Federal Council met in Adelaide and made a few momentous decisions regarding the movement of the Association forward into this next phase of becoming ONE.

The Agenda for the meeting was very extensive as such this report will summarise the main topics if there are any questions you have regarding anything contained in this report please do not hesitate to contact either myself, an invitee of the meeting, or Denise Toovey/Bruce Menzies who acted as Queensland delegates at this meeting.

ADPA Limited Working Group

This is a Subcommittee established to consider the move towards a 'Single entity' Queensland has been well represented on this committee by both Mr Bruce Menzies and Mr John Taylor. There has been a lot of work completed behind the scenes with the drafting of a new constitution and the working of a 'National Office'. There was an agreement in principle that the new constitution be accepted and that a new National Body be formed as an overarching group to assist the State bodies in providing services for their Members.

How does it change what your state committee does for you?

Simply put it means that those people who volunteer now on your committee will get a little bit more support of an administrative nature, and it means the States will have a FORMAL agreement that they work collaboratively and share their ideas and initiatives with the membership as a whole. In the past this has occurred but more as an act of goodwill, so this formal agreement sets boundaries around what is appropriate behaviour for a National Group.

It also means that the development of Education can be spread across states to improve the quality and scope and that we will have a National Body that can meet with the requirements of National Registration & Accreditation.

Marketing & Promotion of Dental Prosthetists

GlaxoSmithKlein at present contain the ADPA logo and recommendation on their products which is great exposure but in recent contract agreements the question was asked regarding the development of a series of commercials similar to that of the dentist on the television recommending a product directly from your local Dental Prosthetist.

GSK and particularly Jane Eakins showed great interest in the idea and so the development of such a commercial is underway. This will lead to National Promotion of the Dental Prosthetist role in the community and is fantastic.

GSK will choose the Dental Prosthetist that will be involved in the commercial and we the ADPA have **NO** influence over who they will select so bribes (chocolate only!) whilst happily received will not garner favour in this instance (or any other).

Yellow Pages

There are ongoing talks with Yellow Pages to ensure that when the search term 'Dental Prosthetist' or 'Denture Clinic' is entered into yellow pages online it is in fact our entries that are being selected as the appropriate ones.

Veteran Affairs

Minutes from the previous DVA Advisory Committee, of which our very own Bruce Menzies is a member, were summarised;

- Provider Numbers, it was agreed that **any existing provider issued with a DVA specific number should continue to use this number for DVA claims and not their new Medicare number.**
- **From 1st May 2008 e-Billing for Allied Health providers through Medicare will be available.**
- Understanding that the consolidation of the Allied Health Services team to Adelaide had not been without it's frustrations but hopefully these are being worked out and the process should be simplified when dealing with any issues of concern.
- We have requested the prefix for Dental Prosthetists be DP or PD
- The fee for 'dentures in difficult circumstances' is to be reviewed. The process for 'lost dentures' is to obtain a Stat Dec from the client and send this along with your prior approval request to the DVA for approval.

Federal Website

The Federal Website will be updated to a new redeveloped site within the month! Queenslanders should be familiar with the look as it was developed in conjunction with the ADPAQ. All feedback happily received.

State Reports

Just for interests sake here are some stats (January 08) from a few states around the country;

STATE	Students	Total Members	Registrants in the State	Membership Fee
NSW	36	313	450	\$625
Victoria	Not collected	250	382	\$650
Queensland	22	157	186	\$450
SA	-	30	41	\$400

The weekend is also a chance for the States to compare notes and activities that they have been involved in for their members. We in Queensland have walked away with a few ideas as to providing better services for our members and I hope that we have given to others.

Again if there are any points that need clarification don't hesitate to contact either myself, Bruce Menzies or Denise Toovey.

Regards,

Dimitti Huxley

CEO, ADPAQ

Denture Care Professionals

The Back Teeth

CONFIDENCE IN HEALTH SERVICES -

CRIMINAL HISTORY SCREENING OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN QUEENSLAND

The ADPAQ has received a letter from the Legislative Policy Unit regarding their Health Professions Review that is underway in 2008.

The review at this stage is asking all stakeholders of the 13 health practitioner registration boards to comment on their recently released discussion paper regarding the statutory framework for a criminal history screening model for registered health professionals in Queensland.

The consultation process is underway but Queensland Health is very interested in completing a criminal history screening on all Registrants, similar to that undertaken for teachers at present. The manner in which this is to be undertaken has yet to be decided so we will endeavour to keep you informed of the progress.

SEQ Study Group

To all those Members attending the Study Group on the 12th March 2008 the organising committee (Richard Wellington and Neda Nikolovski), wish to send their apologies for a slight mix up with the catering...

Both Richard and Neda felt that there was not enough food for all the attendees and they took their issue to the staff at the United Services Club and are assured it won't happen again!

They are happy to assure you the Learning as well as the Eating can continue! (Next SEQ Study Group 9th May 2008)

From the CEO

On the 15th February I visited a number of practices on the Gold Coast to keep myself acquainted with the issues affecting the Prosthetist on the ground, to;

Verner & Ingelise Frahm,
Craig Cook,
Michael Marquenie and Ray Parker

I thank you for your warm welcome and the time you took showing me your clinics.
Best Wishes Dimitti.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER

When members are paying by direct deposit (ie. Online transfer) some members are not entering the invoice number and their name in the transaction details. This leads to some confusion for the treasurer as it has been difficult to match the funds deposited with the correct invoice.

The treasurer is requesting that everyone completing an online deposit with the Association follows the two tips below...

Please simply place the

INVOICE NUMBER along with the **MEMBERS NAME** in the transaction details when depositing monies into the ADPAQ account .

Denise and Jan will be ever grateful!

*****update

IMPLANT COURSES AT NSW TAFE

TAFE NSW is running the official Skills Council approved course on Implant Retained Overdentures for Dental Prosthetists '**HLTDP608A Insert an Implant Retained Overdenture**'..

THE COURSE WAS BOOKED OUT VERY QUICKLY SO ANOTHER IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER AND THEN A WAITING LIST WILL DETERMINE FURTHER COURSES IN 2009!

Further Information can be obtained from Mr Graham Key, by phoning 02 9469 8680 or via email graham.key@det.nsw.edu.au