

First Impressions

ISSUE 13
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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 from our perspective far from adequate.

FOR YOUR DIARY

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 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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**MEDICARE DENTAL ITEMS FOR PATIENTS WITH
CHRONIC CONDITIONS AND COMPLEX CARE NEEDS
NOVEMBER 2007 - APRIL 2008**

The discontinuation of the Medicare scheme providing dental care to patients with chronic conditions and complex care needs and the evident lack of funding given to the State and Territories by the Commonwealth Government to replace this scheme required some further thought, so the Management Committee of the ADPAQ requested access to MBS statistics to see for themselves the amount of work that Dental Prosthetists undertook under the auspices of this initiative.

The reason for discontinuation of the service was due in part to the complexity of the procedure required, and the thought that the uptake wasn't large. However in Queensland the number of services provided indicates that there were many within the Queensland public assisted resulting for them in an increase, one would hope, in their level of general health.

MBS Statistics November 2007 to April 2008

Note:

1. These Statistics are available to the public via the Medicare website by following the link <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/medicare/mbs.jsp>
2. The Statistics shown below are not exhaustive but are a summary of those provided by Medicare
3. Prior to November 2007 Queensland Dental Prosthetists provided no services to patients via the Medicare rebate scheme, unlike NSW and Victoria where pensioner schemes are well established.

Dental Prosthetists Services	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS
Services Provided by Eligible Dental Prosthetists						
87011	966	627	107	13	7	23
87014	652	562	62	0	1	1
87071	279	115	11	0	0	0
TOTAL SERVICES	1,897	1,304	180	13	8	24
BENEFIT PAID \$	66,136	44,430	6,239	474	310	868
Prosthodontics						
The majority of services fell under the item numbers;						
87733	5,637	2,224	526	13	12	15
87736	175	29	112	0	0	12
87719	527	435	91	11	8	7
87731	308	163	86	0	0	7
TOTAL SERVICES	10,157	4,203	1,065	40	26	65
BENEFIT PAID \$	2,141,418	1,183,464	229,649	15,492	16,260	18,085



Southbank Institute of Technology

The ADPAQ has been asked on a number of occasions to talk to the Dental Prosthetics students at SBIT. The presentations are generally focused on the life of a Dental Prosthetist.

Most students are already running Dental Laboratories so have a good idea of the knowledge required in running a small business, but not maybe on the changes that will be asked of them when dealing directly with the public. At our discussions in May with first semester students it was apparent that it is the clinical aspect of the course that they find most daunting. The ADPAQ would like to thank all those members who have participated in talking to the students and on some occasions in welcoming them into their practices for a tour and an offer of guidance for the duration of the course.

The New DENTURE CLINIC and the new teaching facilities are now in use at SBIT the areas are a huge improvement on the Kangaroo Point campus and we congratulate all those involved.

ADVERTISING THE SERVICES OF DP'S

The Management Committee of the ADPAQ recently took the decision to start some marketing of the services of Dental Prosthetists directly to the community.

The purchase of a half page advertisement in the soon to be published Seniors Directory, with a circulation of 560,000 Queenslanders, and a further advertisement in the third quarter edition of the RSL News, circulation 42,000, is our starting point.

We would be very interested to know if this helps your business in any way. Do you ask your patients how they came to be using your service? If so the Committee would be grateful on any feedback as to whether this advertising benefits you. The Committee would like to be able to measure the reward to the cost so any comments will be gratefully received.

REMINDERS

Back to Basics Conference Palm Cove

18th, 19th, 20th July

Don't forget to get your registration to us if you would like to attend the weekend at Palm Cove.

The trade display and speakers are all lined up and we look forward to another weekend of education and conversation.

The DT & DP Board will also be in attendance on Friday so it is your chance to ask questions directly to the members.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewals are due by the end of the month send your payments in to ensure you are not only once again a member of the **recognised Peak Body of Dental Prosthetists in Queensland**, but to ensure your Insurance does not lapse.

ADPA NSW Branch are finalising the Program for their State Conference to be held from Thursday 4th September to Sunday 7th September 2008.

As soon as it is available to us we will be placing the program and Registration form on the website.

Denture Care Professionals

The Back Teeth

CLASSIFIEDS

Positions Vacant

Dental Prosthetist Toowoomba FULL TIME

The Oral Experts Group is looking for a dental prosthetist to operate a denture clinic in Toowoomba. The group has 10 dentists who will be referring most of their denture work to the prosthetist for both the clinical and technical aspects.

The denture clinic will operate separately from the dental surgery. The clinic may also out source its technical services to other dentists. The existing laboratory needs some updating and the successful applicant may have a large say in the layout and equipment incorporated in the renovation. A new consulting room will provide a comfortable clinical environment.

This is a full time position and a generous remuneration package will be negotiated for the successful applicant. New graduates are welcome to apply as the Group is happy to provide mentoring both in clinical and technical aspects.

If you are interested in this excellent opportunity or would like more information please send your resume or enquiry to:

Dr. Greg McHugh, The Oral Experts Group
22a James St. Toowoomba Qld 4350
or email to g.mchugh@uq.net.au

Seeking Position

Ms Gabriela Taligova is seeking a position as a Dental Prosthetist. Gabriela recently graduated from Griffith University School of Medicine and Oral Health with a Masters in Oral Health (Prosthetics). Gabriela won the Karl Ring Bursary given to the Full-time student with the highest grade point average in the Master of Prosthetics course.

Contact details for Gabriela are;
1/148 Johnston Street, Southport QLD 4215
Phone: (07) 55282727
Mobile: 0422 563847
E-Mail: gtaligova@gmail.com

Website Market Place

Don't forget to keep your eye on the Market Place for some good bargains, to find you way go to www.adpaq.com.au

PRODUCTION AND EDITING

Are you harboring an up and coming Steven Spielberg or Peter Jackson? The ADPAQ have been videoing our recent Information Evenings, with the thought of making them available to regional members through a Library service, and we are looking for someone to give them a final polish prior to distribution. Do you have someone who can help? If so please contact your friendly CEO at CEO@adpaq.com.au.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER

Membership renewal packs have been sent to all members, except students, in the past week.

Along with an invoice for your Membership Fee and a Guild Insurance Renewal Form there was a letter from the ADPAQ Management Committee requesting information regarding your addition to a Membership Directory, a web-based directory and also your preferred method of communication.

FEE Survey

Through our recent discussions with students we became aware that a fee survey would be of great benefit to those starting out in the industry to enable them to see what the market is willing to pay for their services.

The survey can be returned to the treasurer anonymously and it will be passed to our CEO for collation. There will be no individuals singled out and in fact only a minimum, maximum and average price will be indicated on the returned spreadsheet which will go to all members with the next Newsletter.

The greater the number of forms returned the better insight we will have as to the usual market price that is paid in the community.