



AMATas News



AMA Welcomes the appointment of Dr Alcorn

AMA Tasmania welcomes the appointment of Dr David Alcorn to the role of Tasmanian Health Service Chief Executive.

Assoc Prof. Tim Greenaway spoke to media on Dr Alcorn's appointment. Members can listen to the complete interview [HERE](#).



Call for Expressions of Interest for membership of the RHH Research Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee

The RHHRF is seeking to appoint up to three additional members to its Foundation's Scientific Research Advisory Committee (SRAC).

To maximise functionality, members will have an understanding of contemporary health and medical research, be good communicators and work well as part of a team. A track record of significant research output and expertise relevant to the Committee is a desirable prerequisite and ideally, each member will bring skills that are complementary to those of other members.

As noted above, all members must also be approved for appointment by the regulatory authority, in this case, NHMRC.

Nominations may be made by expression of interest which will be considered by the SRAC, for subsequent recommendation to the Board.

For guidance regarding making an EOI, please refer to the [attachment](#). A formal submission to the CEO of the RHHRF is to be made via email heather.francis@ths.tas.gov.au no later than **Monday, 18 January 2016**.

DVA Review of Dental and Allied Health Arrangements

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has advised that it will be conducting a review of its Dental and Allied Health Arrangements.

To inform the AMA's submission, AMACGP is asked to provide input on the access, quality, effectiveness, appropriateness of the services to meet current and future needs of the veteran community.

[ATTACHED](#) is the invitation to submit which includes a background paper and the Terms of Reference of the Review for your information.

Please provide any comments you may wish to make to -

Michelle Grybaitis, BMgt, CAE Senior Policy Adviser General Practice, Legal Services and Workplace Policy Section

E: mgrybaitis@ama.com.au P: 02 6270 5496 by **8 January 2016**

The 'medical home' is the family GP

The AMA today released its new Position Statement on the Medical Home 2015.

The AMA has produced the Position Statement to contribute to the current health policy discussion over the future directions of general practice and primary care in Australia. AMA Vice President, Dr Stephen Parnis, said the Position Statement outlines key principles and requirements for the Medical Home if it is to lead to improved patient care in the Australian context. [READ MORE](#)

If a formal Medical Home model is to be introduced in Australia:

1. it must be appropriately funded, including to support administration, additional care coordination, and non-face-to-face work;
2. funding should complement existing fee-for-service arrangements, paid on a longitudinal basis;
3. it must utilise the patient's usual general practice/GP as the Medical Home;
4. it must be voluntary, allowing patients or GPs to opt out or reverse their decision;
5. it must impose minimal administrative burdens

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Coroners findings: the natural death of a person from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

A copy of the Coroner Simon Coopers findings is available [HERE](#) regarding the "natural death" from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy of a person in Tasmania, together with advice from Associate Professor Dr McTaggart, which was relied upon in the coroner's findings and which highlights the need for greater knowledge about genetic

heart disease and the role played by the Genetic Heart Disease Registry of Australia (which includes a Tasmanian section).

Medibank unveils plans

Medibank has recommended reforms to private healthcare, which would deliver much-needed transparency, affordability and value for consumers in the healthcare system, as part of our submission to the Commonwealth Department of Health's review into private health insurance. [READ MORE](#)

Medibank's seven key recommendations outlined in the attached documents are:

- Improving information-sharing for consumers and insurers
- Standardising simpler products and terminology
- Ending cost-shifting from public hospitals to privately insured consumers
- Reducing the cost of prosthesis
- Reducing default hospital costs
- Improving competition and premium setting
- Rewarding early uptake of health insurance

In addition to saving up to \$3 billion per annum in health costs, Medibank's recommendations would encourage more Australians to take up private health insurance, helping to reduce pressure on the public healthcare system and at the same time improving the quality of patient care.

CONTACT: Dr Linda Swan Chief Medical Officer P +61 2 8297 5061



The **AMATAS** office will be closed from 12 noon, Thursday 24 December and will reopen 9 am Monday 4 January. The Board and Management would like to wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday celebration.

Event: **Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA)** – Tasmanian Branch Masterclass: Diabetes and Pregnancy. With a focus on initiatives as well as practical strategies based on research dedicated to identify, treat and support women with diabetes in pregnancy. Registration is now open. **Date:** Friday 11 March 2016 **Venue:** Best Western Hobart, 156 Bathurst Street, Hobart, **Closing dates:** Early bird registration available until 31 January 2016; registrations close 6 March 2016. A copy of the program for the day is available on the [event webpage](#)

27 & 28 May 2016 – AMA National Conference - Canberra

Saturday 30th July 2016 - **Tasmanian Health Conference**

Headlines

[AMA Position Statement on Sexual Harassment in the Medical Workplace](#)

[Bullying and Harassment Must Be Banished from Medical Workplaces](#)

[Australian smoking and risky drinking rates down but too many overweight or obese](#)

[AMA Proposes Stronger Support and Standards for International Medical Graduates](#)

[PHNs Must Not Be Used to Ration Health Care for Patients](#)

[MYEFO Shifts More Health Costs to Patients](#)

[E-Cigarettes Should Face Same Restrictions as Tobacco Products](#)

[Rural Australia Missing out on Doctors](#)

[ANZICS Statement on Care and Decision-Making at the End of Life for the Critically Ill](#)

[Long Term Ketamine use for depression "premature"](#)

[Mental Health care at "tipping point"](#)

[Medibank hospital contracting fact sheet](#)

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