



ENEWS

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COMMUNICATION

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HEALTH SERVICES AND DOCTORS

The AMA has recently released a new Guide, which sets out 10 minimum standards that should apply for communication between health services and general practitioners and other treating doctors to ensure the best possible health outcomes for patients. The Guide, 10 Minimum Standards for Communicating between Health Services and General Practitioners and other Treating Doctors, which has been adapted from an AMA Victoria document, provides key criteria for communication that can improve quality of care for patients, and also reduce duplication and waste in the health system.

[READ MORE](#)

PERSPECTIVE

DR PAUL FITZGERALD'S ADDRESS - AMA RETIRED MEMBERS LUNCHEON

When I graduated the year before Medibank was introduced, the year of the first **NSW RMO strike**, I **didn't realise at the time how much these events would rule my professional life**. Like most new graduates, I focused on surviving the next month or **the next year**. I **didn't think much about my career at that time, but like most of us I**

expected to leave the profession in a better state than I found it unfortunately, I don't think that is the case.



[READ MORE](#)

CODEINE

SPECIAL CODEINE EDITION

Please find [ATTACHED](#) a copy of a Special Edition of Australian Medicine, discussing the TGA's independent decision to up schedule codeine to prescription-only from 1 February 2018.

Featured stories include:

- **AMA President: TGA's Independent Ruling on Codeine was the Right One**
- How the Decision was Reached
- Codeine – The Facts
- AMA Supports the Independence of the TGA
- Why Codeine Should be Prescription Only
- Expert Quotes regarding Codeine
- Harmful Effects of Codeine

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING IS
EVERYONE'S JOB

WORKSAFE TASMANIA MONTH OCTOBER 2017

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Government

DISCOVER MORE

GP

ACCC AUTHORISATION

Recent discussions held during ICM in Hobart revealed the AMA holds an ACCC authorisation allowing general practices to engage in intra-practice price setting.

This means that GPs throughout Australia who practise as separate entities in a single practice can legally engage in:

- intra-practice price setting;
- collective bargaining, as a single practice, in relation to the provision of VMO Services to public hospitals;
- collective bargaining, as a single practice, with Primary Health Networks.

This authorisation expires next year, with the AMA having lodged an application to renew the authorisation for a further ten years.

The ACCC has responded to our application and is putting the heat on us to give examples of where general practices have used this authorisation, specifically in relation to collective bargaining with public hospitals for VMO services as well as Primary Health Networks (including the former Medicare Locals).

[ATTACHED](#) are the questions that have been put to us. If members can provide specific examples of where you know it has been used or can give me some idea on how negotiations are normally conducted at the local level between practices and hospitals (e.g., after-hours services in rural) we will then be able to piece this together into some sort of cogent response that demonstrates the benefits the authorisation provides.



FUNDING

FUNDING OF UP TO \$8,000 FOR HEALTH SECTOR WOMEN AVAILABLE

Building on the significant developmental momentum achieved earlier in the year, Women & Leadership Australia is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across **Australia's health sector**.

The initiative is providing women with grants of between \$3,000 and \$8,000 to enable participation in a range of leadership development programs. The scholarship funding is provided with the specific intent of providing powerful and effective development opportunities for health sector women; however the funding is strictly limited and has to be allocated prior to the end of 2017.

Expressions of Interest

Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form here prior to December 15, 2017: [HERE](#)

EVENTS

TRAUMA TASMANIA



INFORMATION

- [QUALITY INCENTIVE FOR GENERAL PRACTICE NEEDS NEW INVESTMENT, NOT MORE CUTS – AMA](#)
- [AMA WELCOMES GOVERNMENT REFORMS AS GOOD START TO BRINGING MUCH-NEEDED TRANSPARENCY, CLARITY, AND AFFORDABILITY TO PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE](#)
- [AMA REJECTS PROPOSALS TO WATER DOWN ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR HEALTH PROFESSION TRAINING](#)
- [MEDICAL INDEMNITY ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED, NOT CUT - AMA](#)
- [First Principles Review of the Indemnity Insurance Fund \(IIF\) and each of the schemes that comprise the IIFS](#)

DATES

October 2017

- 26 October - Thursday Northern Division Meeting - 7 pm for a meal and 7.30 pm start - 3rd Floor Meeting Room at the Launceston General Hospital
- 26 October - Thursday - Royal Hobart Show (Hobart Only)
- DTBC 28 & 29 October – Council of DiT Federal

November 2017

- 1 November – Wednesday – AMA Tasmania Council Meeting – Video Conference
- 6 November - Monday - Recreation Day (All parts of Tasmania that do not observe Royal Hobart Regatta)
- 14 November - Tuesday - Southern Division Meeting – 6 pm Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. Light finger food and some drinks will be provided
- DTBC 17 & 18 November – AMA Federal Council in Canberra
- 23 November - Thursday Northern Division Meeting - 7 pm for a meal and 7.30 pm start - 3rd Floor Meeting Room at the Launceston General Hospital
- 28 November – Tuesday – AMA Board Meeting – Teleconference

AMATAS e-newsletter is compiled and distributed on a fortnightly basis to all AMA Tasmania members. We welcome contributions from members and others to make this newsletter lively, informative and successful. Contributions can be emailed to comms@amatas.com.au. All submissions require the authors name and contact details.

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