
ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS AUSTRALIA LTD

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The Peak Body Representing Allied Health in Australia

AHPA Fact Sheet

End year 2006

Since the formation of Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) earlier this year several applications for membership have been received. Some applications are still in process. To date we are delighted to welcome Allied Health Alliance WA Inc and the Australian Sonographers Association as members and look forward to welcoming others in the near future.

AHPA is continuing to work to raise its profile and that of allied health generally with politicians and government bureaucrats. Since the middle of the year further meetings with decision-makers have occurred. In addition, AHPA has made a detailed pre-Budget submission in relation to the funding for university courses to train the allied health professions. The submission argues that given the clinical education component of all health courses, allied health students should be funded at the same level as medical students. A copy of the submission is on our website.

Several important meetings have been held in the past few months. Representatives from AHPA met in Canberra with John Mullarvey, then CEO and Angela Magarry, Director Policy Analysis of the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee. The major point of discussion related to the poor level of funding for allied health professions' training.

Professor John Horvath, Chief Medical Officer Department of Health & Ageing, met with AHPA to discuss the major projects being undertaken by the Federal Government. He expressed his belief that the Federal Government has the firm view that health is delivered not just by doctors but all health disciplines. This has been shown by the recent extension of the MBS. There was discussion in relation to the revised committee structure of AHMAC and the COAG reform agenda including the planned introduction of national registration and national accreditation and ways for AHPA to be influential in the discussions and development of possible models.

Margaret Banks, Head of Ambulatory Care, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare, met with members of the AHPA Management Group to discuss her draft Discussion Paper on Accreditation. The accreditation is related to facilities for the evaluation of safe provision of services to consumers rather than the education and credentialing of individuals. The paper covers a literature review. It raises a range of issues and proposals and poses open-ended questions. It expresses no view on the proposals. Since the meeting the paper has been put out as a Discussion Paper. Focus groups will be held early in

Comprising:

Allied Health Alliance WA Inc, Audiological Society of Australia, Australasian Podiatry Council, Australian Association of Social Workers, Australian Institute of Radiography, Australian Orthotic and Prosthetic Association, Australian Physiotherapy Association, Australian Psychological Society, Australian Sonographers Association, Dietitians Association of Australia, OT AUSTRALIA, Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, Speech Pathology Australia, The Orthoptic Association of Australia and incorporating AHPARR (AHPA Rural & Remote)

the new year to discuss the proposals and written submissions will be accepted until 31 March 2007.

A meeting with Terry Barnes, Senior Adviser to the Hon Tony Abbott MP, Minister for Health and Ageing, discussed the forthcoming health insurance legislation.

The meetings held this year have generated many additional contacts for AHPA and we hope to continue with productive discussions with decision-makers next year.

The success of efforts this year will be reported in AHPA's Annual report which will be presented at the AGM in March.

**AHPA sends best wishes to all allied health professionals
for a happy and successful 2007.**