

## 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

*Day Hospitals Australia acknowledges the challenging year that members have experienced in 2020.*

*Some day hospitals were affected by bush fires at the beginning of the year, followed by the significant impacts of COVID-19 experienced by the sector. Our membership has remained strong throughout the year and we are pleased to have been able to represent and support our members through this difficult period.*

**The key achievements of Day Hospitals Australia in 2020 are shared below**

### Membership

- Recognised as the national Peak Body for the private day hospital sector
- Day Hospitals Australia continues to represent 70% of the day hospital sector across Australia
- Membership remains strong across all levels
- No membership fee increase for the 2020/2021 membership year, with an added option of payment in 2 instalments in recognition of the impact of the pandemic
- Ongoing key focus on member benefits to offer cost-effective services and solutions to members

### Informing the Sector

Members were kept informed through:

- Chapter meetings and regional communications held by video conference
- Critical email updates
- COVID-19 Google Group
- Infographics
- Online Surveys
- Regional and group member teleconferences
- Taskforce updates
- Webinar Series
- Weekly Bulletins
- [www.dayhospitalsaustralia.net.au](http://www.dayhospitalsaustralia.net.au)

### Member Support

- Members in bushfire affected areas recognised and personally contacted by the CEO
- Successfully negotiated the inclusion of the day hospital sector in the Viability Guarantee
- Extensive support for members during the pandemic, through direct contact with Federal and Jurisdictional Health Departments, as well as external organisations and media releases
- Distribution of critical updates throughout the pandemic
- Development of a dedicated COVID-19 page on our website
- Support for members in understanding jurisdictional Health Department contractual agreements in order to secure viability funding
- Establishment of the COVID-19 Google Group to allow direct communication between members, which has proved to be an excellent resource for members on many issues including those related to COVID-19
- Chapter Meetings and Regional communications held by video conference post February, with positive acceptance of this necessary change, and some states choosing to continue with this format following the lifting of pandemic restrictions

## Government Engagement

- Discussion with the Federal Health Minister and Senior Advisors to ensure that the day hospital sector was included in the national viability guarantee and emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Established relationships with jurisdictional Health Departments across the country to assist members in their understanding of the contracting process, providing relevant information and support where needed
- Brian Kelleher, Assistant Secretary, Private Health Insurance Branch of the Department of Health attended the face-to-face March Board meeting in Melbourne
- Ongoing dialogue with State / Territory Health Ministers, Shadow Health Ministers and respective Departments of Health on important jurisdictional issues and COVID-19 pandemic
- Contribution of data to the review of the jurisdictional contracting process and the shortage of PPE
- Discussions with the DayCOR Registry which is providing valuable research on the benefits of treatment in the day hospital setting
- Liaison with the First Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health regarding issues relating to the introduction of colonoscopy MBS items and suggestions to the Department on how this process might be improved for future MBS changes
- Representatives from the Commonwealth and State Departments of Health took part in the Day Hospitals Australia Webinar Series to discuss lessons learnt during the pandemic, the viability agreement and contracting process, plans for future pandemics and the future for day hospitals following the pandemic
- Feedback provided to the Prostheses List Benefit Setting & Review Framework Industry Working Group. Concerns were raised regarding the suggested alternative methodology of pricing prostheses. Our representative on the Prostheses List Advisory Committee and the Industry Working Group continues to keep us advised of the progress of this review and ensures that the day hospital sector concerns are tabled
- Invitation to represent Day Hospitals Australia on the Private Hospital Consultation Forum established to better inform the Department of Health on issues relating to the private hospital sector
- Philip Truskett, Board Chairperson, appointed to the Clinical Categories Review Committee
- Day Hospitals Australia negotiated with the Australian Digital Health Agency to provide two webinars for members on the requirements for day hospitals with regard to My Health Record. Actions 1.17 and 1.18 of the NSQHS Standard 1, have requirements for hospitals with respect to My Health Record

## Health Fund Discussions

- Engagement with CEO's and key executive staff of major health insurers, including NIB, Bupa, AHSA, HBF and Medibank regarding the significant advantages of the day hospital sector and how we can work together post pandemic
- CEO and Senior Executives of Medibank and HCF attended a face-to-face Day Hospitals Australia Board meeting in March to discuss expansion of advanced procedures in day hospitals and future of the day hospital sector
- Representatives from AHSA, Bupa, HCF, Honeysuckle Health and Medibank were invited to participate in the Day Hospitals Australia Webinar Series, to examine the lessons learnt from COVID-19, the impact elective surgery suspensions have had on waiting lists, economic hardship caused by the pandemic and its impact on PHI membership, and ways that the day hospital sector can work with PHI 's to ensure a viable private health sector
- Discussions with some of the major PHIs and QPS Benchmarking to develop a universal set of day hospital sector KPIs recognised by all PHIs

## Member Surveys

Members were surveyed about their response firstly to the viability contracting process and then subsequently regarding the contract audit process. The de-identified results of both surveys were shared with the Federal Health Minister, the Commonwealth Department of Health as well as some of the State and Territory Health Departments.

## Committee Representation

- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Private Sector Group
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Comprehensive Care Advisory Committee
- Australian Council on Healthcare Standards Committee and Day Surgery Indicators and Standards Committee
- ACHS Day Patient Clinical Indicators Working Group
- ACHS Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Clinical Indicators Working Group
- Department of Health Private Hospital Consultation Forum
- Hospital Casemix Protocol and Private Health Data Bureau Working Group
- International Association for Ambulatory Surgery
- National Procedure Banding Committee
- NSW Health Private Health Facilities Advisory Committee
- Private Health Ministerial Advisory Committee
- Prostheses List Advisory Committee and Industry Working Group on Benefit Setting and Review Framework
- Standards Australia

## Webinars

As the 2020 National Conference had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, Day Hospitals Australia produced a series of four Webinars offered at no cost to members, featuring presentations from industry leaders and panel discussions to address the many challenges faced by the day hospital sector during the pandemic. The webinars are available to view on our [website](#).

- *Wednesday 23 September* – Response to COVID-19 in Australia, with Federal / state representatives and Infection control experts
- *Wednesday 14 October* – An International perspective, with speaker from the UK and the USA
- *Wednesday 4 November* – Panel of Industry professionals including representatives of major PHIs
- *Wednesday 18 November* – Discussion around PPE supplies with representatives from industry and day hospitals

## External Presentations

The CEO continues to receive invitations to provide information about the sector and its future, and made the following presentations to external groups in 2020:

- Morgan Stanley PHI Forum (April 2020)
- Goldman Sachs (November 2020)
- Australian Orthopaedic Association Webinar – Short Stay Arthroplasty (November 2020)
- Participation in the IAAS Forum with 35 international representatives

## Partnership Agreements

- Air Liquide Healthcare
- Brand's Surgical Supply
- Mediprotect / IMGA
- QPS Benchmarking
- Trans-Tasman Energy Group
- Turrell Multimedia

## Engagement with Industry Groups

- Day Hospitals Australia continues to work with the AMA, ASO, AOA, APHA, ASPS, ACD, CHA, RACS, COTA and CHF on issues impacting the private hospital sector
- Discussions have commenced with some medical societies to encourage more specialists to treat their patients in day hospitals, including the Australian Society of Anaesthetists, Australian Orthopaedic Association and the Royal College of Surgeons

## State Achievements

- CEO took part in a roundtable discussion with NSW Health in July to examine strategies to deal with the back log of elective surgery, as well as looking at how we should function in a post COVID-19 world
- CEO participated in a forum to formulate resolutions with PWC, the NSW Department of Health and some NSW members to discuss the contract audit process in NSW
- CEO met with Susan Pearce, Deputy Secretary Patient Experience and System Performance, NSW Ministry of Health
- Engagement and attendance by State Health Departments at the majority of chapter meetings
- Ongoing discussions with State Health Departments regarding how the day hospital sector may assist with public patient waiting lists that have become extensive due to the pandemic

## Submissions

- Letter to Prosthesis List Advisory Committee Chairperson regarding Prosthesis List Benefit Setting Review Framework Industry Working Group Report
- Submission to Department of Health regarding the Review of the General Miscellaneous Category of the Prosthesis List
- Submission to Minister for Health regarding the day hospital sector contribution to expand efforts to deal with COVID-19
- Submission to NSW Health regarding their state Elective Surgery Action Plan
- Press Release regarding Private Health Insurance Premium Increases
- Joint Press Release with Day Hospitals Australia, Catholic Health and APHA regarding Hospital Capacity to fight COVID-19



For further information visit [www.dayhospitalsaustralia.net.au](http://www.dayhospitalsaustralia.net.au)

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