

## 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

*Day Hospitals Australia continues to provide advocacy and support for members to ensure the relevancy and sustainability of the sector.*

*We are proud to share the following summary of activities from 2021 (listed A-Z):*

### Committee Representation

- ACHS Council and ACHS Day Surgery Indicators and Standards Committee
- ACSQHC Patient Centred Reporting Steering Committee
- ACSQHC Private Hospitals Sector Committee
- Clinical Categories Review Committee
- Hospital Case Mix Protocol and Private Hospital Data Bureau Working Group
- International Association of Ambulatory Surgery (IAAS)
- National Procedure Banding Committee (NPBC)
- Private Hospitals Consultation Forum
- Prostheses List Advisory Committee (PLAC)
- PLAC Industry Working Group on Benefit Setting & Review Framework
- Standards Australia committees

### Engagement with Industry Groups

- Day Hospitals Australia continues to work with the Medical Societies and Colleges including AMA, ASO, AOA, APHA, ASPS, ACD, CHA, RACS, COTA and CHF on issues impacting the private hospital sector
- Dialogue has continued with Australian Private Hospitals Association and Catholic Health Australia on many issues, including the pandemic, workforce shortage, prostheses reforms including the proposed removal of items from the General Miscellaneous category of the Prostheses List.

### 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 2021:

- Morgan Stanley PHI Forum (April 2021)
- Participation in the IAAS Forum with 35 international representatives
- Goldman Sacks (Sept 2021)

## Government Engagement

- 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
- The Federal Health Minister's Hospital Advisor was in regular contact with the Day Hospitals Australia CEO
- Minister Hunt has been kept informed on the roll out of the viability guarantee agreements and the challenges that have occurred in some areas, particularly relating to the audit process.
- Brian Kelleher, Assistant Secretary, Private Health Insurance Branch Medical Benefits Division of the Department of Health, has continued regular dialogue with the CEO and attended the October Board meeting
- CEO met with the Department of Health in January to provide feedback on why the proposed DRG model for prostheses reform was not suitable to the day hospital sector
- CEO also met with the Department of Health regarding concerns over Type C which included discussions with the AMA
- Continual communication between the CEO and members of the Commission, particularly in relation to the implementation of the Second Edition of the NSQHS Standards and proposed further changes to the accreditation process
- Ongoing dialogue with State / Territory Health Ministers, Shadow Health Ministers and respective Departments of Health on important jurisdictional issues and COVID-19 pandemic

## Health Fund Discussions

- Engagement with CEO's and key executive staff of major health insurers, including NIB, Bupa, AHSa, HBF, HCF and Medibank regarding the significant advantages of the day hospital sector and how we can work together post pandemic
- Some Insurers continued to contact the CEO, particularly during border closures and lockdowns, to establish when day hospital services would be available to their members.

## Media

Day Hospitals Australia's CEO has participated in a number of interviews and news articles:

- Interview with ABC Radio Statewide Drive about regional surgery restrictions and the Viability Agreement in Victoria
- Interview with 3AW's Neil Mitchell about private patients being denied surgery
- Interview with 9 News about day hospitals and ways they can assist after a decision to postpone elective surgeries in WA
- Oliver Peterson on Perth Live on 6PR882 for an in-depth discussion on ways the day hospital sector can support the health system in WA
- Editorial piece in The West: "Day hospitals can offer a way to help tackle nursing crisis"

## Membership

- Recognised as the national Peak Body for the day hospital sector and continues to represent 70% of the day hospital sector across Australia
- 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

## Member Support

- Ongoing support for members as state activity continues to fluctuate around border closures and elective surgery restrictions
- Distribution of critical updates throughout the pandemic through a dedicated COVID-19 page on our website and the COVID-19 Google Group which allowed direct communication between members and has proved to be an excellent resource on many issues
- Chapters have continued to embrace Zoom technology for Virtual meetings which has enabled the CEO to attend all meetings and provide detailed updates to each State / Territory Chapter

## Members were kept informed:

- Chapter meetings 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)

## National Conference

- Ongoing border restrictions and lockdowns due to the Covid-19 Pandemic meant that the Day Hospitals Australia National Conference 2021 was held Virtually from 8 – 10 September 2021
- The Conference explored new scope and advancement for the Day Hospital sector and its increasingly important place in the Australian Health Care system, and the theme “Innovation on the back of Recovery” reflected the position and opportunities for day hospitals
- Over 230 delegates, sponsors, trade exhibitors, invited guests and speakers attended and gained insight from keynote speakers, Scott Anthony, Mike Hardie, Jenny Blaikie and Captain Richard de Crespigny, who discussed Leadership, Crisis Management, Innovation and Mental Health.

## National Conference (continued)

- International guests Bill Prentice, Dr Ian Jackson, Prof Doug McWhinnie shared their knowledge of same day surgery in the UK and USA and Panel Discussions were held to explore Pre-admission processes, Innovation in Healthcare and Legislative Compliance and Regulatory requirements for facilities
- Members were able to purchase an online pass to view presentations online for 3 months after the Conference.

## New Alliances

- Discussions have continued with the Chair of ANZCA's Perioperative Medicine Steering Committee and Chair of the DayCOR Registry, who both participated in a panel discussion at the National Conference
- Federal AMA President, Omar Khorshid, met with the Board in June and participated in a panel discussion at the national Conference.
- IAAS membership now extended to 2 representatives from Day Hospitals Australia – Dr John Napoli and Jane Griffiths. Dr Ian Jackson and Prof Doug McWhinnie presented at the National Conference.
- The Board met with American Association for Accreditation for Ambulatory Facilities, AAAAFS and the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Surgery AAAHC to discuss their accreditation models and processes

## Partnership Agreements

- Benchmarking Services (QPS Benchmarking)
- Energy solutions (Trans-Tasman Energy Group)
- Insurance (Mediprotect)
- Medical Gases & respiratory care (Air Liquide Healthcare)
- Online Staff Training (Turrell Multimedia)
- Online Subscriptions Service (SAI-Global)
- Pharmaceutical & Consumables (Brand's Surgical Supply)
- Qantas Club Corporate Membership
- Telecommunications (Click Compare Connect)

## Prostheses List Reforms

- Submission provided to the Department of Health and Minister Hunt regarding the day hospitals response to the proposed reforms and the possible impacts of these reforms on the sector. Our submission is available on our website
- Continued communication on this topic commenced in December 2020 and has continued throughout 2021

## Prostheses List Reforms (continued)

- CEO actively participated the Department meetings on the proposed reforms and contributed to special meetings relating to the General Miscellaneous category of the Prostheses List and upon our request data was provide specifically for the day hospital sector, separated from the overnight sector
- Worked collaboratively with CHA and APHA in addressing the private sector's concerns in relation to these reforms and especially the proposed time frame and joint correspondence rejecting the PHA's alternative funding model
- Discussions with many PHIs as to their arrangements for alternative funding models for items removed from the List
- After reviewing the first 8 items to be removed from the list it was felt that there would be little impact on the sector
- We await notification of further items to be removed

## Strategic Plan 2022 – 2024

- The Day Hospitals Australia Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2024 was developed by the Board, CEO and staff under the guidance of an external facilitator
- The new Strategic Plan was presented by the CEO at the November round of Chapter meetings and is also available on the website
- The Strategic Plan has been distributed to all stakeholders including the Federal Health Minister and Shadow Minister, Jurisdictional Governments and Departments of Health, Medical Colleges and Societies, the AMA, PHIs, Consumer groups etc

## Submissions

- Submission to TGA in response to Proposed refinements to the requirements for medical device patient information materials
- Submission to ACCC regarding establishment of a Honeysuckle Health and NIB buying group in January 2021
- Correspondence to Minister Hunt asking for further amendments to the Honeysuckle Health and NIB buying group
- Submission in response to Prostheses List Reforms – Consultation Paper No 1, September 2021
- Submission on the Consultation Paper: Options for reforms and improvements to the Prostheses List (December 2020)
- Further Submission on the Ophthalmic MBS review recommendations

## Surveys

A number of online Member Surveys were conducted to ensure that Day Hospitals Australia was able to provide current member feedback and concerns on several issues, these included:

- Bi-annual Member Survey, February 2021 – Members provided feedback on 10 key areas which assisted our Strategic Planning Process, including PHI negotiation, accreditation and emerging from COVID.
  - >91% respondents felt that the CEO and Staff are available to assist, support and advise on topical matters
  - >93% respondents felt supported during the peak of COVID and ongoing
  - >95% respondents felt that they are provided with timely updates on critical activity occurring within the sector
  - Members greatly appreciated that renewal fees were not increased during this time and that payment options were made available
  - >90% of respondents felt that there were opportunities provided for them to stay connected and informed via zoom meetings, Google Groups, webinars etc.
- Second Tier Survey, June 2021 – to provide information about the impact of the second tier default benefit and whether PHIs are contracting with day hospitals and smaller hospitals. demonstrated that of the 87 members who responded, 52% are still dependent on second tier for at least one of the major health insurers.



**For further information visit**

**[www.dayhospitalsaustralia.net.au](http://www.dayhospitalsaustralia.net.au)**

**Phone: 1800 752 822**

**Email: [info@dayhospitalsaustralia.net.au](mailto:info@dayhospitalsaustralia.net.au)**

