

Report to DTA Members March 4th 2014 AHPA Board Management Meeting

1:00pm – 4:00pm Emirates Building, 257 Collins St Melbourne

The Meeting started and finished promptly. It was a normal management meeting with about 10 attendees plus 2 on the phone for part of meeting. Again I was made welcome and encouraged to participate.

There is much discussion around the area of practice accreditation especially re Medicare Local and GP focus. Much of this will come into focus for DTs when we are more involved in private practice.

A Privacy Policy written by lawyers – available to DTA as AHPA member! Accredited Practice discussion led to need for a Privacy Policy (to comply with new National Privacy Principles starting 12th March 2014). Based on one of AHPA's member's Privacy Policy that they have just paid a great deal to have set up, a generic version is being created and checked over by lawyers at very minimal cost. AHPA members will split this cost and have a Policy of themselves and for their members.

Some points in brief:

- It seems perhaps the government is showing signs of going lukewarm over the role of Chief Allied Health Advisor, Mary MacDonald. We all need to make sure this doesn't happen.
- Again the need specifically for evidence-based practice examples – especially from cost efficiency perspective. DT examples are needed too. Terry Findlay from APHCRI Australia Primary Health Research Institute is set up to do research on this area
- Again we need to specifically support Rural and Remote formally – there is interest and attention in this area. We need to keep up with political and economic environment. How do we do this within our resources? Statement on our website?
- AHPA have organised and finalised the event which will see signing of Statement of Intent for the Closing the Gap initiative. The event is at Parliament and most AHPA members will attend and bring their banners along. I arranged that LA as President is signing in absentia. A very good outcome for us to be part of this. I asked for photos to be taken that AHPA members could use for publicity and websites.
- AHPA will look into production of a banner with all member logos on to be used at launches and functions to show broad membership and to add value for individual members to get exposure.
- AHPA has been asked by Lowitja Institute to be part of a movement that will sign a document in support of a change to the Australian Constitution that recognises indigenous people as the first inhabitants. AHPA Board will consider who are others in first stage of this movement and consider its position.

Margie Kennard