



April 2010

President's Update
National Registration and Accreditation Scheme
Medical Indemnity Insurance Association of Australia
AMA Parliamentary Dinner
National Pain Summit
Council of Procedural Specialists
Reciprocal Registration Reduction
The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists

President's Update

Dr Elizabeth Feeney

Welcome to the third e-news for 2010. We have three State Chairs appointed recently: David Brown (Tasmania), Andrew Miller (WA) and Phillip Morrissey (ACT in May). Congratulations to the new Councillors and my appreciation to their predecessors for their contribution to Council and leadership of their own committees. Also Ian Woodforth will continue as the Anaesthesia Craft Group representative to the AMA (Federal). Ian's was the only nomination however elections will take place shortly for other representatives. For further information on office bearers and committees [click here](#).

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS)

Shortly all registered medical practitioners will receive a letter from the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) to "support the transition of all registrants into the national scheme". It is essential that you confirm the accuracy of the information contained and feed back through the form that will be enclosed any corrections that are required. Please follow this [link](#) to the Communiqué from the MBA and go to the section headed Transition Arrangements details.

'Bill C' has yet to be passed in all states. The Commonwealth has introduced its consequential amendments. These have been referred by the Selection of Bills Committee to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by early May. One of the proposed changes to the Bill includes the streamlining of the processes involved in the recognition of doctors for Medicare purposes under the Health Insurance Act. We have made a submission in support of the AMA position. To view the submissions click [here](#).

Medical Indemnity Insurance Association of Australia (MIIAA)

I attended the MIIAA Board dinner in conjunction with a number of Presidents of Societies and Associations. At this dinner Andrew Miller raised the issue of the transition arrangements for NRAS in relation to indemnity cover. Andrew, as Chairman of the MIIAA, has offered keep us informed of any relevant issues for the specialty.

AMA Parliamentary Dinner

The Society was represented at the Annual Parliamentary Dinner in mid March. It was well attended and received extensive media coverage. Unfortunately not one of the eagerly awaited details of the health reform package was revealed by the Prime Minister. Clearly health will be a big-ticket item in this year's election – we would like to know all the parties views on a subject that is both professionally and personally vital to us all. The ASA has approached the major political parties for their views on health and will publish those in the July edition of the ASA News.

National Pain Summit

11 March 2010

The summit opened by the Minister for Health and attended by 200 delegates from 130 organisations called for the development of a national pain strategy. A number of international speakers as well as a pain patient and a carer of a chronic pain patient addressed the summit.

The summit called for the recognition of pain as a condition in its own right with access to treatment in the chronic disease model of care. Some of the recommendations to come out of the summit were a campaign to destigmatise chronic pain and the introduction of standardised interdisciplinary pain management networks.

Council of Procedural Specialists (COPS)

I attend the COPS meetings on behalf of the ASA each month. Concerns were raised relating to many aspects of the Healthcare Identifiers Bill (2010) and the Healthcare Identifiers (Consequential Amendment) Bill 2010. COPS will be asking for expressions of interest for members to nominate for COPS representation on the Advisory Committees for the MBS Quality Framework. I indicated that the ASA would be putting forward appropriately skilled individuals.

Reciprocal Registration

Reduction for US and Aust ASA Members

We have recently signed an agreement with our American colleagues for reciprocal member registration for our respective national meetings this year. If you are planning on attending the American Society of Anaesthesiologists' meeting in San Diego (16-20 October 2010) or have American colleagues visiting for the NSC in Melbourne 2-5 October 2010 you will each be able to register for the meetings at Society member rates.

Registration for the 2010 NSC in Melbourne will open in May.

The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists

(WFSA)-WCA 2012

For those planning well ahead don't forget the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists and the Federación Argentina de Asociaciones de Anestesia, Analgesia y Reanimación will be hosting the 15th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2012. Click [here](#) to read more about the event.

ASA Wine Society

Please click [here](#) for the latest offers from the Wine Society, brought to you by AusCellar Door.

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