

ASAE-news

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ANAESTHETISTS EMAIL NEWSLETTER



November 2008

Message from the President – Dr Elizabeth Feeney



I would like to preface my first brief e-news as President of the ASA by extending my sincere thanks to my predecessor Dr Richard Clarke for his enormous commitment and invaluable work for the greater good of anaesthetists across Australia. Richard remains on the Council as the Immediate Past President and I look forward to his continued input. With the change of Council members we farewell Drs Greg Deacon and Vida Viliunas from the Board of Directors but fortunately Vida will become the Chairman of the Marketing and Sponsorship Committee and Greg has agreed to remain as the Chairman of the Communications Committee.

I would also like to thank Drs Andrew Mulcahy and Nigel Symons for accepting positions on the Council and for the continuing State Chairs and members who continue to give of their time to the Society.

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ASA Council 13 October 2008

Following the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists held Monday 13 October in Wellington, the Society is pleased to announce the new Board of Directors (Council):

President	Dr Elizabeth Feeney
Immediate Past President	Dr Richard Clarke
Vice President	Dr Andrew Mulcahy
Honorary Federal Treasurer	Dr Michael Tuch
Executive Councillor	Dr Nigel Symons
States' Representative/State Chair ACT	Dr Linda Weber
State Chair – NSW	Dr Reginald Cammack
State Chair – Qld	Dr Paul Cook
State Chair – Tas	Dr Stuart Day
State Chair – Vic	Dr Andrew Schneider
State Chair – SA	Dr Guy Christie-Taylor
State Chair – WA	Dr Paul Rodoreda

New Anaesthesia Rebates and Supported Fee

A memo was distributed by email to members on 29 October with the new rates effective 1 November. A copy of the email is on the Society's [website](#).

New iamonline Module Available for Members

Please [click here](#) to take you to the latest module, *Remifentanyl in Obstetrics*.

Maternity Service Review

The Minister for Health and Ageing has called for submissions. [Click here](#) to view the ASA's response prepared by a team led by Dr Jim Bradley.

President's Intentions

I would like to thank Richard Clarke for handing over the 'ship of state' in such good order. The Annual General Meeting heard that we are in a sound financial position given the current international market turbulence, on track to meet the renewed Government's actions on compliance programs and hopefully, with your support, will maintain the growth of the Society.

As President I will continue to promote the independence, interests and status of our profession. This is more important than ever before. The proposed national registration concept sounds great – a computerised national database sounds good. The National Registration and Accreditation (NRA) legislation that has resulted from the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) is neither great nor good. It has far reaching consequences for the standards of health care, medical education, task substitution and funding of services. The ASA is currently lobbying in all states to ensure this proposed system in its current format is not approved. Here is a link to the [IGA](#), the [AMA's submission](#) which we have co-signed and my [letter to the Minister for Health and Ageing](#). I urge all members to write to your local member and State Health Minister expressing your concern over the future of quality Australian healthcare. This can be as simple as an email through to arranging a meeting. If we do nothing governments and oppositions will take silence as consent by medical practitioners!

I feel we have a full agenda on our hands in the coming year. I am very keen to progress some form of collective bargaining or fee capping similar to that achieved by rural GP practices, a suburban GP practice in Canberra and shortly to be announced dental practices nationally. Issues related to informed financial consent, trade practices contravention and patient bills will disappear over night.

Please don't hesitate to call or email me at the ASA Headquarters with your issues. I am here to promote our profession and provide assistance where possible.

Dr Elizabeth Feeney
President, ASA

