



2021 LHN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

MEMBER UPDATE No.14 OUR LETTER TO RSS, LHN CHAIRS and LHN CEOs

29 September 2021

We suggest that doctors do not sign up to any LHN contract offers until RDASA and AMASA recommend doing so.

LOCAL ADVOCACY TOOL KIT [CLICK HERE](#). We appreciate GPs continued effort to maintain momentum. Media reporting remains frequent and favourable to you and your community's cause. Using the TOOL KIT will help maintain our campaign momentum.

As we promised in *Update 13* published 22 September, **Attached** to this email, you will find our letter sent to RSS, all LHN Chairs and all LHN CEOs. Our letter answers the RSS 25 August 2nd response to our March 2021 reform offer. The letter's attachment (also included with this email) explains to RSS and LHN's how our reform offer "flag fall" mechanism applies.

Our letter clearly points to the litany of RSS failings since before, and persistently since, the 2017 – 2020 contract expired in December 2020.

We also explain in our letter where RSS' 2nd response to us either ignores, or massively falls short, of what is needed to overcome the workforce and training pipeline crisis.

Our letter's general thesis is that the content of the RSS 2nd response to us, and the way it was communicated, has been disrespectful to GPs and is a demonstration on how the RSS does not understand the importance of this GP contract in terms of the future medical workforce sustainability in rural SA.

The next edition of this *Update* will report to GPs on progress towards implementing our suggestion (now agreed subject to terms of reference) that Health Minister Wade appoint a professional mediator to review the situation and work with the parties to find a circuit breaker. This review must include consideration of vital new resourcing for the key initiatives put forward by AMASA and RDASA.

However, you will read in the final paragraphs of our attached letter that unless there is evidence of more resourcing from government, we can see no utility or reward in returning to the negotiating table.

Based on member mandate, we remain committed to the reform offer we tabled in March 2021 because an inadequate agreement is just not enough. We are firm we need an urgent fix to a crisis that is reflected by our reform offer.

We commit to continue to publish this Member *Update* regularly to ensure Members remain informed, maintain momentum and maintain public interest towards contract agreement. Look out for Edition No.15 of this *Member Update*.



Please feel free to distribute this *Member Update* and [TOOL KIT \(link\)](#) to interested colleagues and throughout your networks. The more everyone is informed, the stronger our mandate to achieve success.

If you are not a member, please consider joining, by visiting the [RDASA](#) and [AMA\(SA\)](#) websites.

To provide comment or feedback, or for more information, please contact:

- RDASA: President: Dr Peter Rischbieth (Peter.Rischbieth@bridgeclinic.com.au) or Vice President: Dr Scott Lewis (drscott@internode.on.net)
- AMA(SA): Vice President: Dr John Williams (jcwilliams1967@mac.com or president@amasa.org.au) or Chief Executive Officer: Dr Samantha Mead (CEO@amasa.org.au).

We look forward to providing further information and hearing your voices.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Williams', written over a dotted line.

Dr John Williams
Vice President AMA(SA)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P Rischbieth', written over a dotted line.

Dr Peter Rischbieth
President RDASA