



2021 LHN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

MEMBER UPDATE No.15

TALKS WITH RSS RECONVENED AT OUR INITIATIVE

4 November 2021

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

LOCAL ADVOCACY TOOL KIT [CLICK HERE](#).

Our local campaign was launched in July. Despite the elapsed time, we still need GPs continued effort to maintain momentum (all the way to the March 2022 election if necessary).

Using the TOOL KIT will help maintain our campaign momentum and will encourage ongoing and favourable media reporting of your, and your community's, cause.

Since our last *Update* (No.14, 29 September), the RDASA and AMASA Presidents have met with Health Minister Wade about the contract and have engaged in correspondence with him.

Also, we have continued to gain significant media attention, locally and with *The Advertiser* (read one article [here](#) that highlights the huge cost of locum doctors servicing rural SA communities).

The meeting with the Minister resulted in the Minister agreeing to our request to appoint an independent Facilitator to help RSS find a way towards contract agreement. We have advised the Minister that we have preconditions that need to be met before we can begin to talk specifically about contract terms which are:

- Availability of more funding resources.
- Hourly rate remuneration.
- Uncoupling from MBS.
- Single contract incorporating large and small hospital distinctions.

These preconditions have not prevented us, as of 28 September, from beginning regular meetings with RSS chaired by the Minister's Facilitator (we agreed to the well credentialed person who has been appointed as facilitator). With the Facilitators help, we have agreed to confidentiality and believe there is RSS commitment to try and find areas where there is alignment of interest.

Importantly, we have finally achieved RSS agreement to cost and compare our, and RSS, current positions against the cost of locums. RSS has asked us to answer a number of considered questions about our March reform offer which suggests they are now serious about understanding and responding to us.



We have asked RSS to 'get their teeth' into investigating ways to respond to our insistence that GP Registrar training must receive dramatically better support and that incentivising GP engagement with LHNs is a way to show GPs and communities that RSS wants to achieve agreement.

For the time being, future editions of this *Update* will be unable to offer detail on progress, or otherwise, because of agreed confidentiality. Our next facilitated meeting with RSS is locked in for Thursday, 4 November.

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.16 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 (icwilliams1967@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 read 'John Williams', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Dr John Williams
Vice President AMA(SA)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Rischbieth', written in a cursive style.

Dr Peter Rischbieth
President RDASA