



2021 LHN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

MEMBER UPDATE No.17

A WIN – GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER MORE FUNDING

2 December 2021

The Government's facilitator (appointed at our initiative and with our agreement) has indicated he is confident that:

- a formal Government process is underway to consider increasing funding for the rural GP contract.

This is a big win in itself. Forcing Government to consider supplementing LHN budgets so they can meet our *March Reform Offer* contract requirements has always been a main strategic objective of ours.

For 12 months, RSS and LHNs have insisted there is “no new money” on the table. It is a good sign that we have made Government work on approving more funding.

We pressed hard for opportunity to influence the content of any proposal being put to Government. To our frustration, this has been denied to us. Perhaps the course they have chosen suggests they are working to reflect our *March Reform offer*? On that, we will have to wait and see.

From a public health sector industrial standpoint, it is highly unusual for one party to not be involved in the design of a contract proposal before it enters formal Government approval process. As we have said to RSS, it is very risky for Government to endorse a proposal that we have not seen in advance because of the possibility that we will be forced to reject it (based on comparison to our *March Reform Offer*). Were this to occur, Government will then ‘own’ the situation and will be accountable for that; all the way into the 2022 State election campaign.

We have decided there is no utility in further meetings with RSS until Government makes its funding decision. Dialogue opportunity continues to be open through the facilitator. We anticipate our next *Update 18* will be reporting on the Government's position well before Christmas. Let us hope it is the right kind of present! We have been showing all necessary flexibility to help them ‘get over the line’.

We still need GPs continued effort to maintain momentum (all the way to the March 2022 election if necessary).

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

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.



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.18 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 Treasurer: Dr Scott Lewis (scott@wudinamedical.com.au)
- 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 be 'J Williams', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Dr John Williams
Vice President AMA(SA)

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

Dr Peter Rischbieth
President RDASA