



## 2021 LHN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

### MEMBER UPDATE No.19 [4 January 2022]

## AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED

Today, RDASA and AMA(SA) gave RSS their written in principle agreement about LHN, GP public in-patient, contract terms. Subject to **next steps** (see below), this lengthy dispute is now effectively at an end.

Over the Christmas / New Year period we have engaged in a flurry of activity to get agreement 'over the line'. In saying this, we have not achieved agreement because of a time imperative or because of tiredness. Rather, we have been consulting with Members non-stop and negotiating with RSS as the issues in dispute narrowed. This put us in the objectively supportable position to say to Members:

- we have achieved an **increase in excess of 20 per cent** per annum on top of the current arrangements (across a two year deal) and achieved huge improvements to conditions (details to follow, see next steps below).
- after nine (9) months of hard bargaining (since we lodged our *March Reform Offer* with RSS; 15 months if we look back to the original start of discussions) we know we could not extract any more from Government or LHNs (the agreed outcome represents RSS and Government's sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) position and we were even achieving gains literally right up to the last minute); and
- the agreement is true to our Member Mandate and true to our *Reform Offer* fundamentals.

### NEXT STEPS

1. Members will receive from us a signed (centrally agreed) *Heads of Agreement* (HoA) within the next two (2) weeks. This document will describe all of the agreed terms and will formally end all contract and related matters in dispute between LHNs and RSS and ourselves.

The HoA will represent the minimum guarantees for local contract content that an individual GP or GP Practice would sign on to. (NB. The HoA does not insist a contract is signed (though there will be incentives) and does not prevent agreed local arrangements from continuing).

2. The HoA is an important document as it is the only reference for what a locally offered contract would contain (at minimum). Therefore, we will engage with RSS to migrate the HoA terms into legally binding contractual clauses. This task is aimed to be completed by the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) week of February 2022.

**Look out for Edition No.20 of this *Member Update* - the HoA will be provided then.**

---



Please feel free to distribute this *Member Update*

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](mailto:Peter.Rischbieth@bridgeclinic.com.au)) or Treasurer: Dr Scott Lewis ([scott@wudinnamedical.com.au](mailto:scott@wudinnamedical.com.au))
- AMA(SA): Vice President: Dr John Williams ([jcwilliams1967@mac.com](mailto:jcwilliams1967@mac.com) or [president@amasa.org.au](mailto:president@amasa.org.au)) or Chief Executive Officer: Dr Samantha Mead ([CEO@amasa.org.au](mailto: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 over a horizontal dotted line.

**Dr Peter Rischbieth**  
President RDASA