



**AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
(SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC.**

ABN 91 028 693 268

2021 LHN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS RESET

MEMBER UPDATE No. 2

17 March 2021

Welcome to the second edition of the *Member Update*, which aims to keep you informed about the progress of discussions with the Department for Health and Wellbeing's (DHW) Rural Support Services (RSS), aimed at reaching an agreement with the Local Health Networks (LHNs).

What has been happening?

Last Friday (12 March 2021) the Presidents of both RDA(SA) and AMA(SA) jointly presented our reset claims to RSS on members' behalf.

Our claims, set out in straight-forward, plain English, are centred around:

- an hourly rate for two (2) hours or more in-patient activity, and
- an hourly rate for ED shifts.

We have also made claims to support practices, GP registrars and Rural Emergency Responders Network (RERN) GPs.

Hourly rates aim to increase your remuneration, increase LHN compliance and remove much administrative frustrations. Basically, we are aiming to make your experience, and those to follow you, fairer and more attractive.

It should be noted that there is an 'opt out' for those preferring local arrangement to continue.

We emphasised to RSS what our claims represent: that GPs are at the 'end of their tether'. GPs are not prepared to 'chip away' at existing arrangements for incremental advancement; this has been attempted through previous contract iterations and no longer works. Therefore, we have demanded very significant changes.

Our written claim includes the following opening statement.

Our claim offers LHNs the opportunity to begin a genuine cultural change journey. Our claim seeks to simplify arrangements, provide for budget certainty, build in attraction and retention incentives, and remove the barriers to the development of GP trust and collaboration with their LHN. Our claims aim to fix:

2451-Rural doctor negotiation-Update-2_170321

Postal: PO Box 134 North Adelaide SA 5006
Phone: (08) 8361 0100

175 Fullarton Road, Dulwich SA 5065
Email: admin@amasa.org.au Web site: www.amasa.org.au

your AMA

your voice

your profession

- unreasonable GP remuneration (particularly for the more remote locations)
- unsustainable opportunity costs to GP private practice
- interpretation and compliance complexity (includes arbitrary LHN refusals)
- administrative burden and cost (for both GPs and LHNs)
- lack of GP training and support conditions
- lack of recognition of GP skills and contribution to LHNs (often to the disadvantage of the smooth running of their local practice and private patient responsibilities)
- disincentives for local doctors to offer their services to LHNs (and over reliance of expensive locums which undermines quality, efficiency and continuity of care)
- lack of additional support to GPs working in more remote and professionally challenging locations, and
- disincentives to the recruitment and retention of skilled rural generalists (including registrars) particularly to more remote regions.

What happens next?

RSS has committed to advise us on Wednesday, 17 March 2021, when it will be ready to meet us again and provide a response to our claims. We accept that RSS will need reasonable time to elicit LHN consensus, calculate the costs of our claim and work through DHW decision-making processes. Based on the RSS response, we will then decide our next steps.

Please know that some of your GP member colleagues who share your experiences and concerns are committing significant time and effort to design our re-set claims. This group will continue to inform and instruct our decisions and actions.

We commit to publish this *Member Update* regularly to ensure Members have contemporary understanding as to where we are at.

Please feel free to distribute this *Member Update* to interested colleagues and throughout your networks. The more everyone is informed, the stronger our mandate to achieve success. Please look out for Edition No.3.

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

We welcome your input and feedback. To provide comments, or for more information about the negotiations, please contact:

- RDASA: Dr Peter Rischbieth (Peter.Rischbieth@bridgeclinic.com.au) or Dr Scott Lewis (drscott@internode.on.net)
- AMA(SA): Dr Chris Moy (chrismoy@optusnet.com.au or president@amasa.org.au) or Dr Samantha Mead (CEO@amasa.org.au).

We look forward to providing more information soon.

Yours sincerely



Dr Chris Moy
MB BS, FRACGP, FAMA, AMA(M)
President



Dr Peter Rischbieth
President
RDASA