



AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
(SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC.
ABN 91 028 693 268

2021 LHN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS RESET

Member Update No. 7 – 13 July 2021

RSS RESPONSE IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!

This seventh edition of this *Member Update* refers the reader to three attachments emailed with this Update:

- **a joint RDASA and AMA SA Media Release**
- **the RSS written response to the package we lodged in March 2021**
- **the RSS table comparing its remuneration response compared to existing arrangements.**

We are confident the above documents will speak for themselves and will fully inform members.

The response is something we can in no way accept or endorse as it ignores our proposal and offers no alternative way forward. We are confident that members will support our decision to withdraw from negotiations with RSS.

We will not be back at the negotiating table until we see willingness from the State Government, RSS and LHNs to actively support your patients and your communities by agreeing to the package we offered them in March.

We are confident that members will join us in considering it incredible that we have waited nearly four months to receive a response that RSS and LHNs must have known was nowhere near capable of our endorsement, let alone place us in a realistic position to continue discussions.

Like you, we know rural general practitioners are the heart and soul of rural health. We are deeply committed to quality patient care and the wholistic service delivery that fills the gaps in public health and in the investment in training medical students, interns, residents and registrars. The RSS response does not acknowledge this commitment or invest in it. It strikes a deep blow to the health of rural communities and to the rural doctor workforce of the future.

This will be catastrophic for our rural patients, especially those who are vulnerable and who already rely on rural GPs to address their needs in areas such as mental health, aged care, palliative care, paediatrics, Indigenous health, and emergency and procedural services. Our concern and desperation were muted as we struggled to give our patients hope and allay their fears, but we can be mute no more.

Our March package offer to RSS was crafted to provide workable solutions to the crisis in the rural public health environment. Members are encouraged to make their views known to their communities, as it is they who are suffering.

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We commit to continue publishing this Member Update regularly to ensure you remain informed. Look out for edition No.8.

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.

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



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