



## 2021 LHN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

### MEMBER UPDATE No.8 Member Motion Passed Backing Our Contract Stance

22 July 2021

Welcome to the eight (8th) edition of this *Member Update*. *Update 7* provided Members with information encouraging their support for the RDA(SA) and the AMA(SA) decision to withdraw from contract discussions. We did this because of the unacceptable RSS response to our responsible March offer.

Since then, our media release generated significant, State-wide, media coverage over several days. This included ABC talkback radio, during which the host, Leigh Radford, fielded texts and calls he described on air as 'a one-way avalanche' of distress at the status of rural health". The Opposition Spokesperson for Health and Wellbeing, Chris Picton, has also written in support for our agenda to make rural public hospitals sustainable.

Last night (Wednesday, 21 July) we held a successful virtual, town hall style, Member meeting to discuss the contract situation and ask Members for their instructions about a way forward. The meeting unanimously passed a Motion (re- printed below). As a consequence, we have written to RSS to give one more chance for them to 'get serious' in their response to us and we have published another media release about the formal Member mandate we have unanimously just achieved.

We made sure the RSS received our letter just before their meeting with of all LHN Chairs convened today. We reported to the virtual town hall Member meeting that we plan to soon roll out an advocacy tool kit to assist GP practices in explaining to their patients and community the local importance of us being successful in achieving our goals. A future *Update* will advise Members about of this roll out.

**Motion passed to direct AMA(SA) and RDASA to:**

**Hold position on its March 2021 offer to RSS, SA Health that explains the urgent reforms needed for rural GP VMOs (including transition to an hourly rate of pay replacing the fee for service model for those who wish to).**

**Continue to work for rural communities by impressing on RSS, SA Health that our offered reforms will help stop their GPs leaving maintain GP supervisor numbers and attract a new generation of GP Registrars to train and stay.**

**Write to RSS, SA Health seeking a formal meeting within the next 14 days to give them opportunity to demonstrate:**

- **capability and commitment to resolve the current contract impasse it has created; and**
- **preparedness to take our responsible reform offer seriously.**



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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.9 of this *Member Update*.

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**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](mailto:Peter.Rischbieth@bridgeclinic.com.au)) or Vice President: Dr Scott Lewis ([drscott@internode.on.net](mailto:drscott@internode.on.net))
- 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