

## 2021 LHN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

### MEMBER UPDATE No.9 Preliminary Meeting With RSS – Our Forceful Representation of Members' Mandate

2 August 2021

Welcome to the ninth (9th) edition of this *Member Update*.

Under the direction of Members (referring to the unanimously passed Motion by the largest meeting of rural doctors in the history of the State), we convened a meeting with RSS on Friday, 30 July. For agreed reasons (i.e. executive pre-planned leave and short elapsed time) we treated the meeting as preliminary only.

The week prior, the Chairs of all LHNs met and considered our letter that described: the intensity of feeling arising from the Member meeting; restated our reform requirements; and delivered the Motion.

In the past week, following broad, sustained media coverage about the Member meeting, there have been separate long radio interviews with the President, RDASA and Vice President AMA(SA) about the circumstances rural health faces and why our March offer is the reform solution.

At the 30 July meeting with RSS, we, at times forcefully, pressed RSS to find a way forward and to understand the mandate we have to achieve our March 2021 reform offer. While we are still yet to see positive RSS action, we did come away from the meeting believing we may have *finally* achieved an RSS comprehension breakthrough. This follows our exhaustive months of effort, both on and off record, to 'get through' to RSS. At last, we are hopeful the RSS may have encoded that:

- we are serious;
- their work thus far has been totally inadequate; and
- until we see a big change in the RSS response to our reform offer we will not return to 'the table' and that the consequences of RSS's inaction will really start to become apparent.

We are expecting to hold a more substantive meeting Thursday, 19 August. This meeting will test accuracy of our belief that RSS understands it must demonstrate progress to meet our March reform offer.

### Next Steps – Calling on GPs to Act Locally

As described at the Member meeting, work is well advanced to provide Members (and non-members on your referral) with a [Local Advocacy Tool Kit](#). The first stage is to provide Members with an on-line survey for us to gather contemporary information on your lived experience. This will help further press our reform agenda. Also, in the near term, Members will be provided with a Local Advocacy Tool kit with the following content:

- Two [template letters](#) to tell your local MP what the problems are and what needs to be fixed (one version for GPs to sign and send and one version for your patients).
- [Posters](#) for rooms so patients know that you are fighting for the sustainability of their local public health system.
- Suggested [talking points](#) to assist GPs to all press in the same direction using similar messages when talking with the media, with your local community leadership & its people and your patients.
- Straightforward history to also assist with your local conversations and advocacy.

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM AND TO PROVE WE MEAN WHAT WE SAY – LOOK OUT FOR THE TOOL KIT & USE IT TO YOUR COMMUNITY’S ADVANTAGE.**

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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.10 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:**

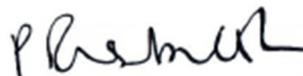
- RDASA: President: Dr Peter Rischbieth ([Peter.Rischbieth@bridgeclinic.com.au](mailto:Peter.Rischbieth@bridgeclinic.com.au)) or Vice President: Dr Scott Lewis ([drscott@internode.on.net](mailto:drscott@internode.on.net))
- AMA(SA): Vice President: Dr John Williams ([jcwilliams1967@mac.com](mailto:jcwilliams1967@mac.com) 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



**Dr John Williams**  
Vice President AMA(SA)



**Dr Peter Rischbieth**  
President RDASA