



AUSTRALIAN
PHYSIOTHERAPY
ASSOCIATION



APA ADVOCACY NEWS

22 October 2020

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Top stories

[New report reinforces APA calls for full scope of physio practice in aged care](#)

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has released two reports based on surveys of older Australians reinforcing the APA's call for quality, evidence based and person-centred care.

Strong findings support our view that many older people in the aged care system feel they are:

- limited in choice about their health care and wellbeing,
- receiving substandard care that impacts their quality of life as a result of a system that only supports minimum standards, and
- concerned about issues including falls prevention and continence.

[Are you ready for NAIDOC Week? Start checking out events in your area now](#)

NAIDOC week will be celebrated from 8-15 November 2020 by local communities across Australia.

Members are encouraged to check out what events are happening in their community and take part.

[NAIDOC website](#)

[Planning for APA's second telehealth roundtable has commenced](#)

Planning is underway for the APA's second telehealth roundtable on 12 November 2020 with the focus on two topics:

- funding and sustainable support for telehealth for improved access and outcomes
- Ensuring safety and quality of telehealth delivery within allied health professions.

Invitees include Allied Health Professions Australia, Melbourne, Flinders and Queensland Universities, Consumer Health Forum, HCF, Victoria's Transport Accident Commission, National Disability Insurance Scheme, National Rural Health Alliance, Motor Accident Insurance Commission, Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health, Digital Health and the Physio Co.

[APA collaborating on submission to NSQPH Standards](#)

The APA is collaborating on a submission to the National Safety and Quality Primary Healthcare Standards to assist primary healthcare services minimise the risk of harm and improve care for patients.

The guidelines are being developed in collaboration with primary healthcare providers, consumers, peak professional bodies, Primary Health Networks and other sector representatives.

[Commission website](#)

Latest advocacy and emerging issues

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

E-Mental Health in Practice have an upcoming webinar: Supporting Indigenous wellbeing through digital resources: an introduction for clinicians. The webinar is for allied health professionals and shares tips on using digital wellbeing resources with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It will also showcase website [WellMob](#).

Date: 22 October 2020, 1pm and 8pm AEDT

[Register](#)

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, with support from HESTA, are presenting a webinar on better healthcare in hospitals for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Participants will hear about the latest research from Australia and North America on how hospitals can deliver better care.

Date: 12 November 2020, 10:30am– 1:30am AEDT

[Register](#)

Aged care

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's has released two reports based on surveys of older Australians highlighting the extent to which inadequate care is causing mental and physical ill health in older Australians, and reinforces the APA's call for quality, evidence based and person-centred care.

The National Ageing Research Institute survey and reports support our view that many older people in the aged care system feel they are:

- limited in choice about their health care and wellbeing,
- receiving substandard care that impacts their quality of life as a result to a system

that only supports minimum standards and

- most concerned about issues including falls prevention and continence.

Royal Commission reports

The APA is engaging with a number of federal politicians and AHPA in pursuing the Royal Commission's recommendation to urgently create MBS items to increase provision of allied health services to people in aged care during the pandemic. The recommendation follows strong evidence presented to the Royal Commission's investigation into the impacts of COVID-19 on aged care by gerontological physiotherapist Rik Dawson and the APA.

COVID-19 Special Report

Compensable schemes

Western Australia

The APA Physiotherapy Research Foundation together with the Insurance Commission of Western Australia has awarded Professor Peter O'Sullivan a research grant valued at \$90,000 that aims to improve the independence of people seriously injured in vehicle accidents to ensure insurance premiums remain affordable. November's issue of InMotion magazine will feature more information about this important project.

APA Website

APA certification webinar series - an opportunity to communicate and collaborate

The APA will be running its second of a planned series of webinars to assist physiotherapists with issuing of certificates in the workers comp and CTP schemes in NSW on Wednesday 4 November at 6.30 pm. This webinar will focus on the how, why and when of the conversations and communications that we have with the treating doctor regarding certification. The webinar is free to all members. Register here.



Compensable schemes cont.

APA Submissions:

- revised workers compensation guidelines for allied health treatment and hearing service provision and
- health outcomes framework for the NSW Workers Compensation and Motor Accident Injury/Compulsory Third Party Schemes

Consultation

The NSW Government has recently opened consultation to inform the Independent Review of Insurance and Care NSW (icare), the workers compensation scheme and the five-year statutory review of the State Insurance and Care Governance Act 2015 (SICG Act).

While the APA will be completing a submission, we encourage you to consider your own submission reflecting your experiences. The consultation closes on 30 October 2020.

NSW Have Your Say website

COVID-19

Metropolitan Melbourne

Routine and preventative treatment may now be performed by AHPRA registered health workers as well as social work, speech pathology, dietetics, audiology, exercise physiology, orthotists and prosthetists, orthoptists, art therapists and music therapists.

Indoor group classes are not yet permitted however outdoor classes can be performed with a maximum of two patients to one health professional. Hydrotherapy services are permitted to be provided in a 1:1 setting in an indoor pool.

Further information regarding COVID-19 can be found on our website with regular updates provided via social media.

Regional Victoria groups and classes

The Chief Allied Health Officer has advised that indoor group classes for the purpose of providing clinical interventions are permitted in order to: prevent a significant deterioration in functional independence that would result in an escalation of care needs (such as increased frequency in treatment, significant increase in pain, specialist input, or substantial increase in recovery time as a result of delayed care) or provide essential pre-operative or post-operative surgery care.

Physical distancing and density quotients must be strictly adhered to, high level hygiene practiced and masks worn.

Further information about COVID-19 can be found on our website with regular updates provided via social media.

NDIS

NDIA CEO Martin Hoffman has released an open letter to participants, carers and families.

NDIS website

Submissions

The APA is finalising a submission to DSS on the National Disability Strategy.

Independent Assessors

The APA continues to be involved in ongoing discussions with senior NDIA officials regarding concerns relating to the scope and timelines of the Independent Assessor (IA) project that was due for roll-out at the start of October. The NDIA have confirmed that the second pilot has been extended and that the timelines for the national roll-out have been extended, and is now planned for February 2021.

Discussions with the NDIA will continue to address concerns raised by the APA including appropriateness of assessment tools, selection of tools and the scope of IA in plan development and review.

NDIS cont.

[Department of Social Services JMF grant](#)

Online modules for the JMF grant are currently undergoing final testing. The course should be publicly available mid-November. Expressions of interest have been circulated for advanced registration for a limited number of free places for the course.

[Further details and register](#)

Paediatrics

The APA have been involved in consultation regarding the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) Reset project.

[NDIS website](#)

We are involved in ongoing consultation with AHPA and other peak bodies to consider future advocacy opportunities for paediatric physiotherapy.

Telehealth

The APA continues to advocate for:

- an extension of MBS and DVA funded telehealth
- an extension will enable current research into the effectiveness of telehealth to be concluded and further research to be undertaken to inform future decisions
- Commitment to ensuring the telehealth service delivery is safe and effective, and call for an evidence-based approach to underpin permanent access to telehealth for consumers.

Planning is underway for the APA's second telehealth roundtable on 12 November 2020 with the focus on two topics:

- Funding and sustainable support for telehealth for improved access and outcomes
- Ensuring safety and quality of telehealth delivery within allied health professions.

Invitees include Allied Health Professions Australia, Melbourne, Flinders and Queensland Universities, Consumer Health Forum Australia, HCF, Victoria's Transport Accident Commission, National Disability Insurance Scheme, National Rural Health Alliance, Motor Accident Insurance Commission, Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health, Digital Health and the Physio Co.

[APA Telehealth Guidelines](#)

Resources

<u>Self-care and self-management webinar</u>	Follow up to the Mitchell Institute's national blueprint for support and development of self-care. Hosted by the Consumer Health Forum with the Mitchell Institute health policy team at Victoria University in Melbourne, which leads the Australian Health Policy Collaboration. 28 October 2020, 12pm-1pm	<u>Register</u>
<u>AHPA Telehealth Guidelines</u>	AHPA has published a useful and succinct guide to telehealth service delivery for allied health practitioners.	<u>Guidelines</u>
<u>APA Hydrotherapy Guidelines</u>	The Aquatic Physiotherapy Committee and several other prominent Aquatic physiotherapists have developed the following document for the provision of hydrotherapy during this time.	<u>Guidelines</u>
<u>APA Telehealth Guidelines</u>	The APA Telehealth Guidelines is a comprehensive document that clearly outlines how telehealth should be conducted by practitioners.	<u>Telehealth Guidelines</u>
<u>JoP clinical practice recommendations</u>	Physiotherapy management for COVID-19 in the acute hospital setting.	<u>Resource</u>