

# Supporting the best outcomes for our profession and community

Hi Everyone,

The traditional anticipation of the Easter long weekend that so many of us look forward to is not the same this year. The COVID-19 crisis has left the world reeling, and our physiotherapy profession with it.

While the past several weeks have thrown our lives into chaos, I want you all to know that our Board, National Advisory Council and staff are working as quickly and pro-actively as we can to ensure the needs of our members are heard.

## What is new?

We have had successful negotiations with the private health insurance sector to make telehealth a viable and important treatment option for physios. Our work with individual insurers will continue as we establish their specific provisions for telehealth.

Medicare rebates have also been fast tracked to accommodate the acute and chronic needs of your patient cohort. Our comprehensive telehealth guide and resources enable you to make the most effective use of this tool.

We have had countless meetings with our colleagues in the Department of Health, DVA, NDIA, the aged care sector and compensable schemes to ensure continuity of safe, effective care for vulnerable patients is maintained.

We have delivered, in partnership with NSW Health, an essential COVID-19 response training guideline for hospital physiotherapists which complements the clinical practice recommendations released by the Journal of Physiotherapy this week. These resources will allow physios to provide vital support in the critical care environment and are world class exemplars of physiotherapy management for COVID-19 in acute hospital settings. We are proud to call many of the authors of these resources APA members.

## Stay in touch

We have and will continue to update you on important news and announcements on a daily basis. Please maintain regular oversight of our website, social media channels and emails. This information will help you with important decisions for and on behalf of your practice, organisation, team and patients.

We have collectively responded to well over 1000 emails and phone calls since early March, and we will continue to offer one-on-one advice when you need it. Our APA member counselling service is also available to you at no cost if you need independent support. Please don't tough it out alone.

Finally, I want to thank the many members of our profession who have provided unwavering assistance and advice to their colleagues dealing with this crisis. Our online communities are awash with offers of support, information and a general sense of camaraderie. At this time, there is nothing more important and I thank you all for maintaining this spirit of collegiality.

Please be assured that whatever additional health and economic measures are to come, our prime focus remains supporting the best outcomes for our profession and the community we serve.

Stay safe,



**Anja Nikolic**  
CEO



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PHYSIOTHERAPY  
ASSOCIATION

For latest information visit [Australian.physio/covid19](https://australian.physio/covid19) and follow the Australian Physiotherapy Association Facebook page.