



Your AMA – Advocating, Managing, Achieving A week in the life of the AMA

Not everyone has a clear understanding of the activities of the AMA(WA). In other words, what does the AMA(WA) do on, say, a weekly basis.

Recently a simple audit of some of the issues dealt with by AMA(WA) was undertaken just to examine the broad areas of activity in a single week. Some of these included:

- ▶ **Workers compensation** – representation on a number of matters including adjustment to rebates, complaints management, implementation of recent legislative changes.
- ▶ **Visiting Medical Practitioners** – representation regarding adjustments to rates.
- ▶ **Rural Practitioners** – Southern Inland Health Initiative detailed representations to the Health Department over the terms implementation of the initiative, consulting on a number of changes to the draft contract that benefit Rural Practitioners.
- ▶ **Advanced Incident Management System** – ongoing representations over the Government's mishandling of loss of privilege detailed in other issues.
- ▶ **Coroner's Act** – Submission regarding a Law Reform Commission Review.
- ▶ **Jury Duty** – Representations to the Minister and Health Department.
- ▶ **Contract matters** – Many issues dealt with during the week involving individual members with problems or need for advice on contract matters.
- ▶ **Industrial matters** – Salaried Doctors in both the public and private sector.
- ▶ **HCN** – Review discussions with Senior Health bureaucrats over ongoing concerns with HCN and advocacy of solutions.
- ▶ **Overpayments and underpayments** – HCN.

- ▶ **Poisons Act Review** – Receipt and initial consideration of the proposals to amend the Act which could have profound implementations for prescribing rights of non-practitioners, patient care etc.
- ▶ **Indemnity** – Discussion with MDOs on a range of issues.
- ▶ **Medical Registration** – Input into the Federal AMA's submission on proposed changes to registration affecting Medical Practitioners registration etc, and discussion with other bodies.
- ▶ **Schedule 8 Prescribing in Residential Aged Care Facilities** – Correspondence with Local Minister.
- ▶ **RFDS** – Resolution of industrial negotiations for RFDS Doctors following a ballot and submission with Fair Work Australia, advice to Doctors.
- ▶ **Doctors-in-Training** – Numerous issues both general re training support and assistance to individuals assistance sort out HCN errors.

- ▶ **Ministerial Meeting** – Preparation for a meeting to consider a range of issues.
- ▶ **Director General** – Correspondence on a range of issues and representations to address member's concerns.
- ▶ **4 Hour Rule** – Ongoing consideration and representations within Government rising out of the survey results.
- ▶ **Local Hospital Networks** – Sponsor and wider representation to the Department on detailed aspects on Government's decision.
- ▶ **Particular Craft Issues** – Number of issues in being involved during the week involving Radiologists, Pathologists, Plastic Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery and other crafts.
- ▶ **Fly In Fly Out** – Advocacy and representation via media activity.
- ▶ **Health Department Travel Policy** – Ongoing representations.
- ▶ **Mental Health** – Range of issues dealt with in this area.
- ▶ Advice to Private Medical Practices, a range of industrial issues including assisting in performance management/ termination issues, other issues such as ongoing seminars and seminar series being conducted.
- ▶ Media releases written and released, media inquiries handled; TV and radio interviews conducted by AMA(WA) President and others.

These just give a brief insight into the breadth of issues dealt with by AMA. They reflect a simple audit of only one week's activity. Some of them are ongoing and relate to individual issues that arise this week to be replaced by others in following week. It also only captures a snapshot of some of the issues. What it does not include is a number of enquiries received from members seeking advice on their individual issues or other services the Association provides including Medical Products, Recruitment/Training, Superannuation and Insurance and so on. The work and the representation continue! ▶