

Closure of Swan District Hospital

Transition to the new Midland Hospital

The AMA (WA) has had some early discussions with Swan District Hospital Salaried Doctors, WA Health and St John of God Health Care (SJOG) about various issues relating to the impending closure of SDH in November 2015. The AMA is advocating to ensure that medical practitioners' rights and entitlements are protected and enforced when the WA Government closes the publicly run SDH and opens the privately run Midland Hospital as a public hospital.

The AMA will keep members informed about progress with discussions and issues that emerge through publication of Swan Information Bulletins on our website.

The issues the AMA is discussing and seeking clarification on include:

- Options for future employment after 24 November 2015 including:
 - Remaining employed by WA Health as promised by WA Health in 2010; and
 - Accepting an offer of employment by SJOG Midland;
- Transfer of accrued entitlements (such as personal leave) for doctors who accept contracts of employment at SJOG Midland;
- Payout of entitlements, including annual leave and long service leave, both fully accrued and pro rata, to those who are not offered or do not seek contracts at SJOG;
- Payment of contract conclusion payment to medical practitioners who accept offers of employment with SJOG. This would be in the form of a transition payment of the type promised by WA Health to all permanent staff to encourage them to accept employment as SJOG (referred to in the *notice from Dr Peter Wynn Owen*)
- Salaries and conditions of employment to be offered to doctors employed by SJOG Midland. Under a new piece of legislation passed by the Federal Parliament in 2013 any employee moving from the public sector to a private provider of the same service is entitled to receive the same conditions as received under a State Industrial Agreement that applied to the public sector employment;
- Employment status of doctors in training. The AMA argues that in the interests of securing continuity of training and entitlements, doctors in training should continue to be employed by WA Health and rotated through SJOG Midland before returning to the public sector. The AMA will also seek assurances that all rotations offered by SJOG Midland will be suitably accredited.

The AMA is at the time of writing awaiting contact from both SJOG Midland and also WA Health to clarify a number of the above issues and to receive the position of both parties on all issues. We are working hard to receive responses as soon as possible so that Members have certainty prior to making any decisions about their future.

Once the position of the parties has been made known to the AMA, we will be able to advise Members of their options. In the meantime, Members are encouraged not to accept written contracts offered by SJOG until it is clear that CCP transition payments will be made or after checking with the AMA (WA) first.

The AMA has prepared the attached table to assist practitioners assess the individual benefits based on the difference between entitlements under a 5 year contract and a shorter contract that would expire by 24 November 2015. The content of the table may alter subject to negotiations with SJOG and WA Health. The AMA will continue to update the table and post the most recent version on the website based on the outcome of negotiations.