

Closure of Swan District Hospital

Continuing negotiations with WA Health and SJOG

Further to the December Swan Information Bulletin (Issue #7), the Australian Medical Association (WA) has continued to negotiate with WA Health and SJOG in relation to a number of outstanding issues concerning Medical Practitioners whose employment at Swan District Hospital (SDH) or Kalamunda District Community Hospital ceases due to the transfer of services to SJOG Midland Public Hospital (MPH).

Secondment to SJOG prior to the closure of SDH

A number of Senior Medical Practitioners have been approached by SJOG to provide services at MPH prior to its opening in November 2015. The AMA has continued discussions with both SJOG and WA Health in order to ensure that Practitioners are able to assist SJOG in the commissioning MPH whilst continuing their employment with WA Health, thereby allowing them to continue to serve the Swan District Community and retain the right to special transition entitlements on the date of closure of SDH. On this basis, the AMA is close to reaching an agreement whereby Practitioners will be seconded to MPH from SDH, thus maintaining their employment with WA Health until the date of closure of SDH and hence protecting entitlements to the special transition payment. The AMA (WA) recommends Practitioners **carefully consider any decision to resign** from their employment with WA Health. If you have been approached by SJOG or have any queries or concerns regarding your current employment with WA Health, please do not hesitate to contact the AMA.

Professional Development Leave

The AMA has received verbal assurances from SJOG that continuous service with WA Health will be recognised for the purposes of Professional Development Leave (PDL) and Overseas Professional Development Leave (OPDL). SJOG has also indicated that any balance of accrued PDL and OPLD will transfer with those transferring Practitioners. The AMA is currently seeking written confirmation of this.

Other issues

The AMA is continuing discussions with SJOG and WA Health in relation to a number of other outstanding issues. The AMA is seeking written confirmation of the number of Practitioners that will be employed in each department at MPH. The AMA is also seeking clarification on the employment of Doctors in Training and envisaged arrangements for Visiting Medical Practitioners, bearing in mind the difficulties associated with competition and consumer law given VMPs are independent contractors. Once assurances have been given on the aforementioned, the AMA will issue a further Swan Information Bulletin.

New Enterprise Agreement

In accordance with the provisions of the *Fair Work Act 2009*, any transferring Practitioner will be employed pursuant to the terms and conditions of the transferring industrial instrument (the Copied State Agreement), being the *Department of Health Medical Practitioners (Metropolitan Health Services) AMA Industrial Agreement 2013*. The AMA is in the process of drafting a new enterprise agreement that will apply at MPH following the expiry of the Copied State Agreement, in September 2016. If you would like a copy of this draft enterprise agreement then please contact the AMA.