



BLMA President's Message

Dr Bob Brown

Once again, welcome to our members, new and old, and thank you for your support and best wishes.

The BLMA has released its first copy of *Synapse*, with some paper copies, but available to all members in electronic form.

The BLMA website is up and running, with thanks to James Collins. The website has been managed and developed by Mr Chris Bourke at Smartfish. We recommend that you access the site at brisbanelma.org and please feel free to add your thoughts and suggestions to us in the committee. We will endeavour to keep our readers informed with as many important health issues as we can, including with use of links.

Our bi-monthly meetings are continuing and we welcome our sponsors and we thank them for their interest in our association.

We encourage our members to attend our meetings. Please contact our Secretary, Dr Ian Hadwen, with acceptances and

apologies, if finding that they are unable to attend. Such apologies would enable Ian to invite members who may be on a waitlist.

We aim to bring our members together to hear clinical presentations from our invited speakers; news from within the profession as well as from various bodies, including the AMA and Queensland Health. We encourage members to air their concerns.

Over the past almost forty years, being involved in local medical associations as well as the AMA and RACGP, I have made many friends as well as fostered contacts and worked on many committees and with many organisations. There is great expertise in our committee and we would all be prepared to hear your individual stories and help as much as we can.

Our next meeting is in late November which celebrates the end of another year. We encourage members to attend with partners (at their cost) to prepare for the festive season.

BLMA Events

BLMA Christmas Meeting

The Brisbane Local Medical Association invites members and guests to our Educational Event followed by Christmas Dinner.

When:
Friday 26 November 2021

Time:
6.30pm for 7pm start

Venue:
Queensland Cricketers Club

Cost:
▶ Free for members
▶ Partners \$75pp

- Guest Speakers:**
- ▶ Update on radiological advances in diagnosis and interventional management of musculoskeletal-skeletal sports injuries – Dr Ryan Shulman – Queensland X-ray Services
 - ▶ Q4 Financial – Kelly Hill
 - ▶ COVID and the experiences of the Australian Para Olympic Doctor in Tokyo – Dr Anita Green

Dress is smart casual.

RSVP:
By 19 November 2021 to Dr Ian Hadwen
hadmed@powerup.com.au

brisbanelma.org



Many thanks to QML Pathology couriers for distributing our newsletter throughout Brisbane.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 BLMA President’s Message
- 1 BLMA Events
- 3 COVID-19 Public Health Directions and Exemptions
- 5 Meet the BLMA Committee
- 7 Letter to the Editor: AMA Queensland Foundation – Beddown volunteers
- 9 Surgical management of Benign Prostate Hyperplasia (BPH) – Options for Patients in 2021
- 11 Self-manage your CPD for free using doctorportal Learning
- 13 Letter to the Editor: GPs in the COVID vaccine rollout
- 15 QScript – the facts
- 16 AMA Queensland Update
- 20 Event Wrap Up

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The Brisbane Local Medical Association welcomes contributions from members, especially **“Letters to the Editor”**.

Please address all correspondence to:

Dr Felicity Jensen
Email: felicity.jensen@health.qld.gov.au

December 2021 (Issue 3) Newsletter

Deadline will be Monday 22 November 2021

- ▶ Would you like to comment or suggest articles to be published?
- ▶ What would you like to see in the newsletter?

Our circulation via email, post and online reaches medical practitioners all over Brisbane!

Contact: Renee O’Brien
Email: r.obrien@amaq.com.au
Phone: (07) 3872 2260
Fax: (07) 3856 4727



Are You a Member?

If you are not a member and wish to join, please contact the Secretary.

Enquiries: Dr Ian Hadwen
Email: hadmed@powerup.com.au

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COVID-19 Public Health Directions and Exemptions

By Dr Felicity Jensen, Dr Thuy Pham and Dr Andrew Frazer



During a public health emergency, the Chief Health Officer has the power to give directions, pursuant to s 362B of the *Public Health Act 2005* to assist in containing, or to respond to, the spread of COVID-19 within the community.

This site includes links to the current public health directions: www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers

Under relevant directions, the CHO, Deputy CHO or delegate may grant an exemption to all or part of the relevant direction on the basis of 'extreme exceptional circumstances'. Further information on exemptions including the link to lodge an application is available here: www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/exemptions

The Health Directions Exemption Service (HDES) consists of a team that deal with exemption applications and provide phone support to the public. The volumes are large, and the requests surge whenever there is a border closure. Since commencing the electronic system, there have been 61,923 exemption applications. There is a team of doctors who are delegates of the CHO and make decisions on exemption applications. From the doctors' lens, our patient is the State of Queensland and the role is largely about balancing public health risks with the rights and wishes of the individual applying. A CHO delegate will review an application on its merits, determine which direction applies and provide a decision. If an exemption is granted, conditions will often apply.

There is a specialised team within HDES called the Health Care Support Service (HCSS). This team ensures that individuals who have specific health needs are supported when they enter Queensland from a

COVID-19 hotspot or from overseas. This case-management service is supported by nurses, social workers and paramedics with access to specialist doctors via a Complex Care meeting. Clinical advice may include, for example, whether an individual's quarantine period should be undertaken in a hospital. To access the service, call **134 COVID (13 42 68)** and select option 4. For information on entering Queensland for essential healthcare, visit www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/travelling-to-queensland/essential-health-care

The management of public health directions is a constantly evolving space as the natural history of the pandemic progresses and vaccination rates increase. Let's hope that Queenslanders continue their brilliant compliance – and luck – so that we can all enjoy greater freedoms soon.

Meet the BLMA Committee

Vice President – Dr Hasthika Ellepola

The BLMA Vice President, Dr Hasthika Ellepola brings with him over twenty-five years of clinical experience in Obstetrics and Gynaecology as a Specialist and Fellow. He has been the clinical lead in the Multidisciplinary Perineal Clinic and Alcohol, Drugs and Pregnancy Teams.

Since 2011, Dr Ellepola has been the Senior Staff Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Logan Hospital. He is an advanced laparoscopic surgeon with special interest in endometriosis

and currently performs combine surgical intervention with multi-disciplinary teams which includes a Colorectal speciality.

Dr Ellepola currently holds the following positions:

- ▶ Deputy Chair | Gynaecology, Morbidity and Mortality Forum;
- ▶ Representative member | Credentialling and Scope of Practice of Metro South Hospital and Health Service (MSHHS);
- ▶ Training Supervisor and Member | RANZCOG Examination Board;
- ▶ Senior panel member | RAZCOG Hospital accreditation and assessment panel; and
- ▶ Working party member developing the Queensland state-wide clinical guidelines.



*Dr Hasthika Ellepola
BLMA Vice President*

Dr Ellepola has strong teaching and research skills and is currently the clinical lead in simulation education, upskilling and clinical scope of practice and credentialling and a Senior Clinical Lecturer at the Griffith University Medical School. His special interest is patient safety and advocates for a safe working environment and innovative training.

Our new website is now live!

Keep up to date with latest news and BLMA events at your fingertips!



brisbanelma.org



Dr Libby Anderson
Orthopaedic surgeon, QLD

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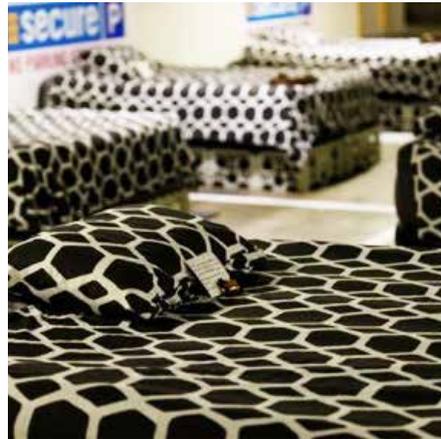
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Dr Dilip Dhupelia
AMA Queensland Foundation Chair

Letter to the Editor

AMA Queensland Foundation – Beddown volunteers

I wish to highlight the work of an organisation called **Beddown**, whose dynamic CEO, Norm McGilvray, and I met at a city café recently.

You may have seen media about this organisation which turns car park spaces that are busy during the day but are vacant at night, into pop-up accommodation for homeless people.

Beddown believes everyone deserves a bed to sleep in and in repairing the quality of life for people experiencing homelessness, before building a life of quality. **Beddown** also works with other charitable organisations to provide complementary services such as laundry and showers, food and beverages, clothing, health and wellbeing, and more.

As the recently elected Chairman of the AMA Queensland Foundation, my coffee chat with Norm involved trialling a programmatic approach

to building a better life for those who are experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough by offering counselling service, motivational interviewing and tackling addictions by offering drug and alcohol testing. This is so we can get people experiencing homelessness employment ready and reverse their homeless state.

I am quite excited as what we as doctors can do to offer this service by providing consultations and guidance to these people who have fallen on hard times. If any BLMA members, (GPs and non-GP Specialists) are able to offer counselling, support, consultations on drug and alcohol addiction therapies or wish to know more about this wonderful program, please feel free to contact me.

It is such a worthy program.

For those who are interested, please also see this 7News story:

www.facebook.com/7NEWSBrisbane/videos/174787041225023/

Dr Dilip Dhupelia
dhupelia@bigpond.com



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Surgical management of Benign Prostate Hyperplasia (BPH) – Options for Patients in 2021

By BLMA Member – Dr Anojan Navaratnam MBBS FRACS (Urol)

Lower urinary symptoms (LUTS) are very common complaints in men. A significant proportion will progress to needing surgical intervention due to lack of improvement or development of complications such as urinary infection, haematuria or urinary retention.

Transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) was seen as the gold standard. However, we now have a large armamentarium for tailoring surgical treatment to individual patients based on severity of symptoms, patient sexual function and prostate gland size. A lot of the described morbidity of TURP can be avoided by these more novel approaches.

Many younger men who suffer BPH often don't want to risk sexual side effects such as retrograde ejaculation and erectile dysfunction (albeit small) of a TURP and at the same time, don't want to continue taking medications.

As such, "minimally invasive surgical treatments" (MIST) for BPH have been developed. The 2 most common are the Urolift™ and Rezum™. Urolift™ involved placing a number of clips to prop open the

prostatic urethra while Rezum™ involves injecting superheated steam into the prostate, thereby inducing cell death in enlarged prostate cells. Improvement in LUTS is favourable, retrograde ejaculation rates are low and patient satisfaction is high. MIST is also an option for frail patients who are at high risk of complications from a more definitive surgical procedure.

Holmium laser enucleation of the prostate (HoLEP) has been performed for around 20 years as a definitive intervention for BPH. We finally have this option available to patients in Brisbane. The entire obstructing transition zone of prostate is "enucleated" mimicking open simple prostatectomy but with a completely endoscopic approach. The use of the high powered holmium laser allows for minimal bleeding risk and there is no risk of transurethral resection syndrome (TUR syndrome) as saline is used for irrigation during this procedure. It is a prostate size dependent approach and HoLEP is particularly useful for prostates larger than 80g, where a more invasive abdominal approach would otherwise be needed.



Dr Anojan Navaratnam MBBS FRACS (Urol)
BLMA Member

The literature demonstrates retreatment rates are the lowest of all the surgical interventions. Retrograde ejaculation is almost certain, however impact on erectile function is minimal. Patients usually only have a catheter for 1 night and are discharged the day after surgery. This surgery is now available for private patients at St Andrews War Memorial Hospital and Greenslopes Private hospital. Public patients can also access this treatment at the new Surgical Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS) facility within Metro North Health.

These are significant options available to patients in 2021 who require surgery for BPH.



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Dr Tuan Ha
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Dr Art Kaminski
Lung, liver, bone Brain, spine & skin cancers



Dr Nicola Lowrey
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A/Prof David Macfarlane
Theranostics, nuclear medicine



Dr James MacKean
Prostate, urological GI, SRS, SABR, haematology & palliative treatments



Dr David Schlect
Brain, spine, lung Skin, sarcoma & benign malignancies



Dr Gail Tsang
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Get in touch

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Chermside Medical Complex
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Chermside QLD 4032
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receptiononcologychermside@genesiscare.com





Dr Bavahuna Manoharan
AMA Board Director
and doctorportal Learning Pty Ltd
Board Chair

Self-manage your CPD for free using doctorportal Learning

By Dr Bavahuna Manoharan, AMA Board Director and doctorportal Learning Pty Ltd Board Chair

Did you know that regardless of your career stage, you can self-manage your CPD until January 2023?

Medicare eligibility is now automatically linked to a practitioner's registration status and not subject to whether the practitioner continues to be recognised as a Fellow of their college. This removes a process that treated GP recognition for Medicare differently than that for non-GP specialties. It provides GPs with the same freedoms enjoyed by other specialties when meeting their CPD obligations for the purpose of continued registration.

Like other specialists, once a GP who has obtained Fellowship is registered in the specialty of general practice, that specialty status will continue to be recognised, so long as the practitioner continues to meet the requirements for registration, including the Board's Registration standard for continuing professional development (CPD) requirements.

The current standard enables doctors to choose a self-directed program

of CPD if it meets the requirements for CPD set by the relevant specialist college. GPs have finally been given the opportunity that other specialties have enjoyed of being able to take control of their CPD learning.

The **free AMA CPD Tracker**, accessed via doctorportal Learning, supports medical practitioners irrespective of specialty, to track and report against multiple CPD requirements that meet their registered scope of practice and MBA CPD obligations.

What does the introduction of CPD homes from January 2023 mean for you?

The Medical Board of Australia (MBA) CPD requirements for medical practitioners change in 2023. From 1 January, doing CPD independently will no longer be an option for any medical practitioner. Interns and specialist trainees will meet the requirements by participating in their accredited training programs. All other practitioners with a practising form of registration will be required to complete 50 hours of CPD per year, based on a personal CPD

plan, and at least half of this time will need to be spent doing more active forms of CPD (reviewing performance and measuring outcomes).

Practitioners will be required to declare at renewal of registration their CPD home, which will manage their CPD program. For many specialists, their CPD home will likely continue to be their specialty college, but some practitioners may choose another CPD home, approved by the AMC.

To learn more about the forthcoming changes, watch Dr Anne Tonkin, Chair MBA and other speakers presenting the **'Update on Changes to CPD'** at the AMA Online National Conference. Available on doctorportal Learning, this free, two-hour online module is accredited by ACRRM.

To **sign up** or **log in** as an AMA Member to the free **AMA CPD Tracker**, please visit the doctorportal Learning **website**. www.dplearning.com.au





ACT FAST, LEASING NOW!



With only five tenancies remaining, Caboolture Medical Hub, located at 120-124 McKean St, Caboolture is a stand-alone private health and medical precinct, and is optimally positioned to service the community of Caboolture and surrounding areas, such as Morayfield, Elimbah and Beerburrum.

The health and medical hub is situated directly across the road from the Caboolture Public Hospital, which is currently undergoing a major redevelopment to significantly expand services over the next four years, as well as the Caboolture Private Hospital, and offers a fantastic opportunity for specialists and allied health groups to establish themselves in this growing area.

The development of Caboolture Medical Hub is nearing completion, to create a modern facility with a professional image for medical and health businesses and provide comfort and ease for patients.

- Directly Opposite Caboolture Public and Private Hospitals
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Overlooking the hallowed turf of The Gabba, celebrate your next milestone with an event at the Qld Cricketers' Club!

There has never been a better time to celebrate any milestones achieved than after the past year of uncertainty. Whether a birthday, career related achievement or family celebration, book your next event at the beautiful Qld Cricketers' Club, renowned for its spectacular views, food & wine! Plus, book with the peace of mind that your event can be easily postponed or fully refunded should COVID disrupt your plans.

For further information or to book your next function with us, email events@qcclub.com.au or visit www.qcclub.com.au.



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*QCC is a COVID-Safe workplace and is following the Government approved COVID-Safe plan.



Letter to the Editor

The role of GPs in the COVID vaccine rollout

As the COVID vaccine rollout continues, it is appropriate to highlight General Practice as GPs continue to play a central role. Together with our non GP Specialist colleagues, GPs have been on the front line caring for our communities over the past 18 months. GPs continue to provide face to face and telehealth consultations, advocate for the community and General Practice and keep patients abreast of new developments. Many of us are running COVID vaccine clinics after hours and are working longer hours to get as many vaccines in people's arms as fast as possible. Our administration and nursing staff have also stepped up and continue to respond to an increased workload supporting patients and our vaccination efforts.

The mental health toll continues to increase as the pandemic continues

to affect our lives. At Family Doctors Plus, we've noted a 40 percent increase in patients reporting with mental health concerns. GPs continue to provide ongoing care for these patients as waiting lists to see psychologists and psychiatrists are significant.

GPs share the same safety concerns as other health care workers regarding PPE, outbreaks, lockdowns and bringing COVID into our homes. Even though we work in different clinics we have experienced true collegiality as GPs share ideas and support. The importance of self-care and colleague support has never been more crucial as we continue to support our community as the battle against COVID continues.

Dr Maria Boulton (AMA Queensland Director and Council of General Practice Chair, QMWS VP, Family Doctors Plus Director and Founder)

Dr Fiona Raciti (AMA Queensland Councillor and Council of General Practice Member, MBAQ Committee Member, Family Doctors Plus Director and Founder)



*Dr Maria Boulton
AMA Queensland Director and
Council of General Practice Chair,
QMWS VP, Family Doctors Plus
Director and Founder*



*Dr Fiona Raciti
AMA Queensland Councillor
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Member, MBAQ Committee
Member, Family Doctors Plus
Director and Founder*



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F **07 3834 4291** E sawmh.breastcare@uhealth.com.au W standrewhospital.com.au/breast

QScript – the facts

By Jeffrey Allen, AMA Queensland Policy Manager



Jeffrey Allen
AMA Queensland Policy Manager

QScript is a read-only prescription monitoring system that will help health practitioners identify high-risk clinical situations and assist them to manage their patients. All prescribers, regardless of setting, are required to 'look up' QScript when prescribing or providing a treatment dose of a monitored medicine.

What medicines are captured by Script?

All schedule 8 medications and the following schedule 4 medications: all benzodiazepines, codeine, Gabapentin, pregabalin, quetiapine, tramadol, zolpidem and zopiclone. These medications have a recognised therapeutic need but may also present a high risk of causing patient harm.

As a Doctor, what do I need to do?

- Step 1** Register for QScript on the registration link sent to your AHPRA registered email address or head to the Script registration portal register.qscript.health.qld.gov.au
- Step 2** Connect your clinical software to a Prescription Exchange Service (PES)
- ▶ Medisecure 1800 472 747/
www.medisecure.com.au
 - ▶ eRx Script Exchange Service 1300 700 921/
www.erx.com.au

How to fit QScript into your daily routine

- ▶ Each morning – log into QScript and set up your PIN for the day. Stay logged into QScript.
- ▶ The PIN is valid for 12 hours. QScript uses multifactor authentication so you will need your phone if this is how you use your MFA

QScript prompts

QScript may provide a prompt to review a patient's history of monitored medicines: these prompts are either RED, AMBER or GREEN prompt

| | |
|-------|--|
| RED | ▶ Red means you need to review the clinical history of the patient due to the patient's previous history with monitored medicines |
| AMBER | ▶ Amber means you need to review the clinical history of the patient ▶ Amber means that a patient monitoring medicine prescription history exists |
| GREEN | ▶ Green means no patient monitoring medicine prescription history exists |

QScript help:

Phone: 137 846

- ▶ If you do not have clinical software bookmark the URL: hp.qscript.health.qld.gov.au
- ▶ For tablets and mobile devices bookmark the URL: hp.qscript.health.qld.gov.au

Web links:

Register for QScript
register.qscript.health.qld.gov.au

QScript Learning portal
www.qscriptlearn.health.qld.gov.au

QScript webinar series
insight.qld.edu.au/training/webinars

Information about QScript
www.health.qld.gov.au/qscript

QScript



AMA Queensland Update

qld.ama.com.au



*Prof Chris Perry OAM
AMA Queensland President*



*Dr Brett Dale
AMA Queensland CEO*

PRESIDENT AND CEO REPORT

As the nation comes closer to opening up from COVID-19 lockdowns, AMA Queensland has been working with the State Government on preparing to live with inevitable Delta strain outbreaks. We strongly encourage all Queenslanders to get vaccinated as soon as possible, and all general practices to take part in the vaccine rollout.

Our Ramping Roundtable is continuing its work on solutions to emergency department pressures to ensure our hospitals are prepared for any COVID patients.

The Queensland Parliament passed its Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) legislation and AMA Queensland is now working with the government on its implementation, while the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation Queensland (ASMOFQ) has had advocacy wins for Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) and on private practice billing.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT WAIT LISTS

AMA Queensland's Ramping Roundtable met in early October

for the third time, as ramping issues and Code Yellows at Queensland hospitals made national news.

Ramping Roundtable chair and emergency physician Dr Kim Hansen said hospital bed access and ramping must be urgently addressed before the inevitable outbreak of the Delta strain in Queensland.

"There is a very real threat of our hospitals that are treating COVID cases becoming overwhelmed as we have seen happen already in New South Wales and Victoria," she said.

"We need our hospitals at 90 per cent capacity to allow the flow of those in emergency departments through the hospital system. It's imperative we have an action plan developed this year, but we must be fully armed with data and collaboration.

"We need to have a full understanding of how big the problem is, so we can develop tangible ways to improve the situation.

The Queensland Audit Office (QAO) has called for changes to how ED wait times are measured, finding a lack of reporting on factors affecting how quickly EDs can receive and treat patients, including available beds and staffing of ED and inpatient wards.



Roundtable members will meet with Opposition Health Minister Ros Bates and Opposition Leader David Crisafulli in October.

You can read the QAO report at www.qao.qld.gov.au/reports-resources/reports-parliament/measuring-emergency-department-patient-wait-time.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Open letter to all Queenslanders

AMA Queensland issued an open letter to all Queenslanders, warning that a COVID-19 outbreak is inevitable and urging them to get vaccinated now before it is too late.

AMA Queensland President Professor Chris Perry and Council of General Practice chair Dr Maria Boulton said the health system is as prepared as possible, but the vaccination rate will be critical in keeping hospitals clear to care for COVID patients and other Queenslanders who need health care.

You can read the open letter in full at qld.ama.com.au/news/openletter

Mandatory vaccination

AMA Queensland continues to call for nationally consistent rules on mandatory COVID vaccinations for all health care workers.

The Queensland Government's decision to mandate COVID vaccinations for all Queensland Health and Queensland Ambulance Services employees is welcome, but leaves employers in private practice in an uncertain legal position should they require their employees to be vaccinated.

Public health orders for health care workers should include GPs and practice staff, pharmacists, hospital staff, and cooks and cleaners.

A survey of AMA Queensland and ASMOFQ members in August found that nine in 10 support mandatory vaccinations for all health care workers, and almost 80 per cent are concerned about working alongside unvaccinated workers.

On 1 October, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) recommended mandatory vaccinations for all workers in health care settings as a condition of work.

You can read the AHPPC advice in full at www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-statement-on-mandatory-vaccination-of-all-workers-in-health-care-settings

QSCRIPT

AMA Queensland has prepared some frequently asked questions to help members with the new QScript prescription monitoring system, which helps health practitioners identify high-risk clinical situations and assists them to manage their patients.

All prescribers, regardless of setting, are required to look up QScript when prescribing or providing a treatment dose of a monitored medicine.

QScript will not prevent a doctor from prescribing—it provides further information to inform decision-making. The decision on whether to prescribe remains with the prescriber (whether they have checked QScript or not).

We support QScript as a strategy to reduce the intentional and unintentional harms caused by monitored medicines but recognise there are some teething issues as the software and process is implemented.

You can read our FAQs at qld.ama.com.au/news/QScriptQA

QScript



VAPING

From 1 October 2021, consumers need a valid prescription to import nicotine vaping products, such as nicotine e-cigarettes, nicotine pods and liquid nicotine.

This decision closes a loophole in federal legislation which allowed the unregulated importation and illegal sale of nicotine containing vaping products, or e-cigarettes.

There is evidence that nicotine vaping products act as a 'gateway' to smoking in youth and exposure to nicotine in adolescents may have long-term consequences for brain development.

AMA Queensland does not support the use e-cigarettes as a quit smoking strategy because of the limited evidence supporting their use in cessation, and our view is that GPs, in working with their patients, should not feel pressured to prescribe them.

We recommend members provide proven smoking cessation products, such as behavioural counselling, nicotine replacement therapy, and some prescription medicines.

You can read more at qld.ama.com.au/news/vaping

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

VAD laws will come into effect from 1 January 2023 and AMA Queensland will work with the government to ensure that patients and doctors are protected throughout the scheme's implementation.

A survey of AMA Queensland members overwhelmingly called for early career doctors to be exempted from the scheme, and we will continue to advocate for this.

The Victorian and Western Australian VAD schemes limit eligibility to doctors who have practised for at least five years after completing a fellowship and who have relevant experience in treating or managing the medical condition of the patient.

This is particularly important as the Queensland legislation allows patients with an expected 12 months left to live to request VAD, while other states require a six months life expectancy.

Our survey responders were from all specialties and ages, socially conservative and progressive alike, and almost 90 per cent said doctors in training should be exempt from the VAD scheme.

WIN FOR VMOs

ASMOFQ has secured a 2.5 per cent pay increase for Queensland Health VMOs.

The expected payment date is 28 September and the increase will be back paid to 1 September 2021.

ASMOFQ has worked hard to secure this pay increase and ensure VMOs receive similar benefits to all medical officers. Only last month, VMOs gained access to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) as an important option to resolve workplace disputes. Furthermore, VMOs will be included under the upcoming MOCA 6 (Medical Officers' Certified Agreement 6), to be negotiated in 2022.

When VMOs join AMA Queensland, they also become members of ASMOFQ at no extra cost.

ADVOCACY WIN FOR PRIVATE PRACTICE BILLING

ASMOFQ and AMA Queensland have been working hard to find a solution for medical imaging specialists who are affected by changes to private practice billing that came into effect on 1 July 2021.



ASMOFQ raised this issue several months ago with the Health Minister and also in detailed discussions with the Director-General in August.

As a direct result of our advocacy, Queensland Health has circulated a proposal to affected specialists for their feedback, outlining an interim billing process while a permanent resolution is developed over the coming months.

This proposal was due to ASMOFQ's hard work and expertise as an industrial relations organisation representing doctors and fighting for your rights.

We have received constructive feedback on the proposal from members and will continue to work towards a satisfactory resolution for members.

DOCTOR Q INTERVIEWS SHADOW HEALTH MINISTER

Members will have received the spring edition of Doctor Q where we interviewed the Queensland Shadow Health Minister, Ros Bates MP, about the state of the Queensland health system.

Other feature articles include recipients of AMA Queensland awards at the Dinner for the Profession, a first-hand account of being a doctor in quarantine during the recent Brisbane outbreaks, and Self-Care September – a month-long initiative by the Council of Doctors in Training.

We are always keen to hear your feedback so please let us know if you have any suggestions for content and articles you would like to see in our flagship magazine.

Please email your inquiries, suggestions and feedback to amaq@amaq.com.au.

STARTING OR ENHANCING A PRIVATE PRACTICE SEMINAR

– Saturday 13 November

Doctors planning a move into private practice will be able to learn the intricacies of dealing with the Medicare system at the **Starting or Enhancing a Private Practice Seminar** on 13 November.

Director of the Professional Services Review, Professor Julie Quinlivan, will be a keynote speaker at the event. The Professional Services Review (PSR) is the Independent Statutory Agency responsible for regulation of Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Prof Quinlivan hopes to also answer questions from participants during the seminar and will offer advice on how to find useful online resources.

Register online at qld.ama.com.au/StartingaPrivatePractice2021



STARTING OR ENHANCING A Private Practice SEMINAR



SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2021 | 9AM – 5PM
RBWH CONFERENCE & EDUCATION CENTRE

REGISTER NOW



Event Wrap Up

August 2021 Meeting

BLMA members enjoyed the presentations from our guest speakers:

- ▶ Dr Gail Tsang from GenesisCare on Prostate & Skin Cancer treatments.
- ▶ Dr James Collins presented on the Brisbane North PHN & Metro North HHS GP Liaison Program
- ▶ Dr Geoff Hawson on Australian Senior Active Doctors Association (ASADA)

Members enjoyed a delicious seated dinner while listening to the informative talk.

We thank our sponsors and co-facilitators, GenesisCare and Q4 Financial, for their assistance.



MEETING WITH THE DIRECTORS OF GP PARTNERS
- BOB BROWN, DILIP DHUPELIA, BERES WENCK, MURRAY BINGHAM



GAIL TSANG



GRAHAM MCNALLY, ARCHIE LAMB, JAMES COLLINS



GRAHAM MCNALLY AND DAVID FIELD



HASTHIKA ELLEPOLA AND GIHAN GUNAWARDENA



CHAITANYA KOTAPATI AND ROSALIND CRAWFORD



ALLAN PHILIPS, ZELLE HODGE AND DAVID PHILLIPS



PETER KENT AND KIMBERLEY BONDESON



JAMES COLLINS



General Practitioner Amberley

You might think you already know a lot about Bupa. You'll know we provide health insurance and aged care services across Australia and you've probably also seen our dental and optical clinics in your local shopping centres. But what you might not realise is that we also deliver health services to Defence Force members and their families across Australia.

We're currently looking for an experienced GP to join our team in Amberley.

This is a great opportunity for a GP with an interest and passion for occupational medicine or eager to grow their skills with supported training into aviation medicine.

For more information email Melina Saunders, Recruitment Lead, via melina.saunders@bupa.com.au



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