

The voice of healthcare

Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association

President's Report

October 2010 – September 2011



Introduction

This is my final annual President's Report to the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association. Since 1947, the AHHA has continued a proud record of being the only independent national body representing the public healthcare sector, and it has been my privilege to be its President for the past four years.

The AHHA is committed to supporting and representing its members who are responsible for managing health services and caring for patients across the breadth of sectors and services in our public and not-for-profit healthcare sectors. The AHHA's policies and positions accurately reflect the views of members through consultation and discussion with Networks, Communities of Interest, Policy Think Tanks and other groups about the most topical issues affecting us all. Because of this, the AHHA's voice has significant standing and credibility when responding to government reforms and programs.

The past 12 months have provided important opportunities for AHHA to influence critical decisions around the system-wide reform agenda and to influence all Australian Governments to improve public healthcare services.

In addition to our policy development and advocacy, we continue to deliver a valuable range of quality services and products to our members.

This report outlines the AHHA's achievements for the past 12 months.

Membership

Public and not-for-profit healthcare organisations continue to show their appreciation and support for the Association's activities and services by signing on for Institutional Membership. These organisations represent all classifications in the Institutional membership range from state-wide to regional, hospital and community services. Associate membership, together with Personal and Student memberships have also expanded as we increase the range of membership benefits.

This year, the AHHA is introducing a new category of Academic Membership. This will fulfil our vision of a Research Directorate that links healthcare services with researchers in order to undertake health services and policy research projects. We envisage that Academic Membership will become a vital component of the Association.

AHHA Champions Network

In my last report, I discussed the development of an AHHA Membership Network to ensure a regular exchange of information and ideas between the Secretariat and members. In order to better describe the functions of this group, we are now calling it the AHHA Champions Network. We encourage all Institutional, Academic and Associate members to nominate at least one AHHA Champion. This Network will be supported by a web-based communications platform.

Awards

Sidney Sax Medal



The AHHA awards the annual Sidney Sax Medal to an individual, active in the health services field, who has made an outstanding contribution to policy, organisation, delivery and research. At the Adelaide Congress I had great pleasure in announcing Gillian Biscoe as the 2010 Sidney Sax Medallist. Gillian has spent her working life in the health and human services industry where she has made an outstanding contribution. She has worked nationally and internationally in a wide range of areas including health system reform, workforce development, policy development, strategic planning, leadership development and change management and executive coaching. She was thrilled at receiving the award.

Honorary Life Member 2011



I am delighted to announce that Dr Bill Coote has been awarded Honorary Life Membership in 2011 for his valued and long-term contribution to the Association and to the healthcare sector generally. Bill has worked with the AHHA Secretariat in the development of many of our policies. His broad experience in health, together with his thirst for knowledge, a fine writing style and great sense of humour, have made him a true asset to our organisation.

Policy, Research and Advocacy Program

The AHHA has a comprehensive policy, research and advocacy program which is evaluated and refreshed every year by our National Council. This program is one of the AHHA's greatest strengths. Importantly, our policies, research initiatives and advocacy campaigns reflect the knowledge and expertise of people working in health services through their participation in our *Networks, Communities of Interest and Think Tanks*. The output of this program gives AHHA the capacity to make a positive impact on government reforms and programs, to react quickly to emerging issues and to inform public opinion.

The AHHA's policies always propose practical, evidence-based solutions. In some cases these are small contained projects designed to have maximum influence, while others address the nation-wide issues such as the need for greater funding, improved safety and quality systems or better integration of services.

The AHHA uses the media to maximise the reach of our policies and views and our profile is significant. Most of the national health reporters recognise our expertise in representing our constituency and appreciate our readiness to respond to requests for information. Our media releases are available on the AHHA website.

Rural and Remote Health Network

In 2009, in conjunction with the Australian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM), the AHHA undertook a major policy development project on the Multi-Purpose Service concept. This was triggered by the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission's recommendation to expand Multi-Purpose Services in remote and rural areas. It was one of several key recommendations aimed at tackling the causes and impacts of health inequities. A Rural and Remote Network was established and a comprehensive paper written. Subsequently, the Network has been maintained and a second AHHA-ACHSM event was held on 18 April 2011 to discuss Local Health Governance in Rural Communities. On the strength of this, the AHHA has renewed its accreditation to be a member body of the National Rural Health Alliance and will continue to be represented by Lyndon Seys from Alpine Health in Victoria.

Utilising the expertise of the AHHA Rural and Remote Network, the AHHA's next major project will be to develop policy on the funding and sustainability of rural and remote health services and hospitals. The context is the National Health Reform Agreement in which the Commonwealth will fund 50% of growth in services and functions to hospitals through block grants and Activity Based Funding, according to the Service Level Agreements between LHNs and State Governments. The AHHA will seek meetings with the CEO of the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority in order to discuss:

- the efficient cost of providing services in rural and remote health services and hospitals (including Multi-Purpose Services);
- how the elements and quantum of the block funding grants will be decided and calculated; and
- how funding from other programs, such as aged and community care, will be incorporated and paid (ie directly or through the LHN or via the State).

The AHHA will convene a Policy Think Tank early in 2012 to consider the penultimate draft of this policy.



Oral and Dental Health Network

AHHA's initial Oral and Dental Health (ODH) Policy was published in 2008 and was spearheaded by a Policy Think tank in 2007. A strong Policy Group was formed. The underlying issue for the group is that oral and dental health needs to be 'mainstreamed' into the health system. The focus of the advocacy and campaigning has been on funding, prevention, access, workforce, research, national standards and targets, and leadership. The AHHA became an inaugural member of the National Oral Health Alliance and has contributed to its work. The NRHA adopted the outcomes of the AHHA ODH Network meeting in Adelaide in March 2011 as a priority position.

In 2011 the AHHA lobbied for a representative on the Prime Ministerial Dental Health Council which was established to guide the government over the next 12 months. Subsequently, AHHA Council member, Dr Martin Dooland, and Executive Director, Prue Power, were appointed to the Council.

The AHHA will convene the annual Oral and Dental Health Policy Think Tank in November in Canberra.

AHHA and the National Health Reforms

AHHA response to the Reforms COAG Heads of Agreement

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a new deal on health that will deliver national health reform that will last, being built upon a genuine partnership between the Australian Government and the States and Territories. The National Health Reform will affect every person in Australia, no matter where they live. The scale of health reform is enormous, and while some things will happen quickly, the benefits of some aspects of health reform won't be fully realised for a number of years.

The final AHHA Issues Paper responding to the National Health Reforms (2011) Heads of Agreement (February 2011) was published on 28 April 2011. The paper was developed in consultation with the AHHA National Council and a small high-level Policy Group. It stands as our formal policy position on a range of health reform elements and has been extremely well received. It has been the topic for discussion in high-level meetings with senior Commonwealth officers, State Health Department CEOs and Health Ministers and has been appended to the Association's submissions in relation to the reforms.

Performance and Accountability Framework and NHPA Legislation

The AHHA contributed comprehensively to the proposed Performance and Accountability Framework developed by the Transition Office in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The Framework is linked to the National Health Performance Authority (NHPA) legislation. The AHHA met on two occasions with Deputy CEO of the Transition Office, Dr Tony Sherbon, to convey the Association's views and was supported by Councillors via phone hook-ups.

Emergency Departments and Elective Surgery

Our response to the Framework included work on the access indicators and targets included for emergency departments and elective surgery. The latter was the subject of separate consultation made to the Department for the newly formed Expert Panel chaired by Acting Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Baggoley.

Private Health Insurance



The AHHA, supported by Professor John Deeble, met with senior advisers of four Independent Members of the House of Representatives (Robert Oakshott, Tony Windsor, Tony Crook and Andrew Wilkie) to argue for means testing of the Private Health Insurance (PHI) rebate. Our briefing discusses the history and economics of PHI incentive measures argues that the Government proposal to means test the rebate will not impact materially on the number of people who have private health insurance.

Our position is backed up with an equity argument and a view that privately insured services should be complementary to Medicare MBS and hospital programs, rather than viewed as competitive. The AHHA produced data which shows how many people, both nationally and within each of the relevant electorates, are likely to drop PHI because of the rebate – in reality, very few. The AHHA, again assisted by Professor Deeble, prepared a background paper and media release (18/8/11) which were distributed to the Independents as well as to the offices of the PM and the Health Minister.

E-Health

Currently, the AHHA is participating in consultations around the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) and is represented by Dr Tony Sara.

Mental Health

In 2008, the AHHA produced a policy on Mental Health Funding Methodologies which has stood the test of time. It was 'recycled' in the context of the recently announced Inquiry into Commonwealth Funding and Administration of Mental Health Services. This is being undertaken by the Senate Community Affairs References Committee and is due to report by 20 September 2011.

Indigenous in-patient care: hospitals demonstration project

Cardio-vascular disease is the greatest single contributor to the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The AHHA worked with the Heart Foundation and a Community of Interest to produce a report titled '*Better Hospital Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing heart attack*' (2010). The report had 15 recommendations and was widely distributed after being presented to the Minister, Warren Snowden, at a Parliament House Roundtable discussion.

The AHHA and Heart Foundation decided to seek funding for a hospitals demonstration project in order to take this work further. The goal is to locate hospitals that are achieving a high level of cultural safety, as identified by an agreed set of indicators, and use these hospitals as mentors to assist other institutions. A background scoping document and detailed business case are currently being developed.

Refugee employment in health

A Policy Group is being coordinated by Graeme Houghton jointly with the Victorian Adult Migrant Education Service (AMES). The initial focus is to develop a draft paper including 'pathways' documents as case studies from group members, Kerrie Field (St Vincent's, Sydney) and Sue De Gilio (formerly of Western Health).

Research

Survey of health managers and clinicians on reforms: Achievements and barriers to health reform

The AHHA has partnered with the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) at the University of Technology, Sydney, to undertake a project to monitor the implementation of current health reform plans. Clinicians, managers and opinion leaders are being surveyed to identify what has been achieved and what barriers they perceive as the reform implementation progresses.

Multi-level analysis of human resource management systems on hospital outcomes

The AHHA has partnered with the University of New South Wales and Queensland Health, to undertake research under an ARC Linkage Grant Project. The AHHA is represented in the project by Dr Patrick Bolton, and the Secretariat is providing a range of in-kind support to the project. This project explores the relationships between human resource management systems, perceived organisational support, trust-in-management and commitment of health care workers and ultimately how these constructs affect hospital outcomes at individual, unit and organisational levels. A range of activities are planned to promote involvement in, and results of the project as it progresses. This includes a session at Congress and coverage in *The Health Advocate* and a Policy Think Tank in 2012. Peer-reviewed papers based on the qualitative interviews may be submitted to the *Australian Health Review* as the project is further advanced.

Events

Congress 2010



HEALTHCON 2010 was held in Adelaide in September 2010 and took participants “on an exhilarating journey into health care in the next decade”. It featured a line-up of high-calibre Australian and international presenters who spoke on futuristic subjects such as the progress of Australian health reforms since the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission; the future of medical research and new treatments; the effects of climate change on health systems; the impact of new technologies on health care including genomics, nanotechnology and information-communications technology; participatory design in social planning to ensure sustainability; healthy ageing in society; and changing the culture of society through education and health promotion. Evaluation feedback indicated a very successful conference.

The 2011 Congress is entitled *The Great Healthcare Challenge* and is to be held in Melbourne from 11 – 14 October.

Policy Think Tanks, Roundtables, Workshops and Simulations

The AHHA Policy Think Tanks and associated activities complement our policy development program and are designed to provide input to policy and advocacy campaigns. Each of these events provides a format for policy updates from key speakers and the opportunity for participants to break into smaller working groups to determine key priorities and advocacy strategies. During the last 12 months, a main focus of our activities has been the National Health Reforms. Included in the program were the following events.

Community and Primary Health Care (1 September 2010 and 22 July 2011)

The AHHA has run two Policy Think Tanks during the period of this report. The first, in September 2010, came at a time when the question of reform in this sector was uncertain due to the election result. Key speakers from the Divisions of General Practice, and community and non-government health providers, were able to discuss the future of primary and community health in spite of the uncertainty surrounding health reforms.

The second event, held in July 2011, considered the role and operation of Medicare Locals and Community Health Services in the new environment created by the National Health Reforms. In the context of the reforms, the issues discussed were financial incentives, the effectiveness of local governance and integrating joint programs for chronic disease management. A report on the outcomes of the meeting was written and distributed.



National Health Reform Simulation and Master Class

The AHHA's ground-breaking NHR Simulation event (21-22 June), together with a Master Class (24 June), brought together senior people with current or recent experience in the health care system to participate in a 'road-test' of the new environment which will be created by the NHR Agreement and its enabling legislation. Their task was to identify some of the challenges around its implementation.

The large group of expert participants shared their knowledge and judgement in considering how the NHR agenda will work 'on the ground'. The report of the outcomes offers a valuable and thought-provoking contribution to the effective implementation of Australia's health reform agenda. It will complement other approaches to implementation planning such as reliance on historical experience and use of quantitative data.

As a result of this Simulation, the AHHA is planning further Simulations to road-test the LHN-ML relationships, in conjunction with the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute and the Australian General Practice Network. These Simulations will be state-based. It is expected to convene the first one later in 2011, followed by the remainder in 2012.



State and Territory branch meetings

AHHA Branch meetings are designed to strengthen the AHHA's local structures by bringing members together in individual jurisdictions. They also provide the opportunity for our members and stakeholders to hear from interesting guest presenters.

This year Dr Tony Sherbon, the newly appointed CEO of the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, provided an overview and update of the progress of the implementation of the reforms at events in the ACT (22 July), Tasmania (25 August), Queensland (30 September) and SA (5 October). Shane Solomon, Chair of the IHPA, gave a presentation in NSW (21 September). Meetings in the other States and the Northern Territory will be conducted before the end of the year.

For our second round of branch seminars in 2010, Dr Chris Baggoley, Chief Executive of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, toured a number of cities for the AHHA. He discussed the role of the Commission in developing national healthcare standards and clinical guidelines in Sydney (16 August), Melbourne (2 September), Perth (6 September) and Adelaide (10 September).

Our second ACT branch meeting for the reporting period (14 September) was addressed by the new CEO of ACT Health, Dr Peggy Brown. Tasmanian members had the opportunity to meet during their annual Combined Health Colleges Conference (21-22 July 2010).

The AHHA, in partnership with the Australasian College of Health Service Management (NSW) and law firm Holman Webb, also convenes the Health Law Seminar Series. In

2011, two Seminars were held. The first (31 March) was on the topic of Regulating Health Professionals and the second (31 August) discussed Corporate Governance in the new era of Australian healthcare covering both Local Health Districts and Medicare Locals.



Publications

The AHHA is a source of relevant, timely and high quality information about health services, both national and global. We provide our members with a comprehensive range of information and support, including the following print and online publications.

Australian Health Review (AHR)



The AHHA is proud of our prestigious peer-reviewed journal, which continues to gain in national and international recognition. The AHR is published by CSIRO Publishing and is guided by our highly professional Editorial Team. Editor-in-Chief is Professor Andrew Wilson, who is supported by two Associate Editors – Professor Simon Barraclough (Policy) and Dr Gary Day (Workforce Models). Dr Deborah Yarmo-Roberts resigned from her Associate Editor position at the end of 2010. The *AHR* is published quarterly in print and online, accompanied by a selection of Open Access articles that are posted at the same time as the journal is published.

The Health Advocate (THA)



Published five times a year, in partnership with Globe Publishing, *THA* is gaining a reputation as the voice of the public and not-for-profit healthcare sectors in Australia. Each edition is packed with features about innovative healthcare services and thoughtful articles about topical issues. In 2011, *THA* dedicated issues to *Primary and Community Care, e-Health, Activity Based Funding, Health Reform, Mental Health and International Health issues*.

Consultations and Submissions

The AHHA contributes to national health policy development through participating in consultative activities and writing submissions for reviews and inquiries. During the previous 12 months, we have prepared submissions and/or participated in the following activities:

- May: Caring for Older Australians – Productivity Commission review
- May: Legislation to establish the National Health Performance Authority
- July: Performance and Accountability Framework
- August: Senate Mental Health Inquiry
- September: Legislation to establish the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority

Strategic Partners and Alliances

Another feature of AHHA's working style is the establishment of strategic partnerships. We maintain strong networking links, both formally and informally, with a wide range of industry stakeholders and organisations.

Over the last 12 months our alliances in relation to policy development and events have included the Australasian College of Health Service Management, the Victorian Healthcare Association, the Women's and Children's Hospitals Australasia (co-located with AHHA in Canberra) and the Heart Foundation.

By employing the mutual and complementary strengths of these organisations, our policies are enhanced. The great benefit of sharing the advocacy platform with partners is that, by representing a larger constituency, we can have a greater impact on governments.

In addition, AHHA belongs to other industry organisations and participates in many industry events. A list of these activities and representatives is at Appendix 2. The Association appreciates the time commitment and expertise of our representatives.

Speeches

Conference presentations provide an additional platform for the AHHA to emphasise and publicise its policies. Over the past year, Prue Power has given the following presentations:

- April: Melbourne Institute Public Economic Forum - *Paying for Better Health – Health System Reform: Public Hospital Demand and Primary Care*
- May: National Primary and Community Health Network - *Advocacy for primary health care – what are the issues, what needs to be done and how do we do it?*
- July: Tasmanian Combined Colleges Conference on the National Health Reforms
- August: The Committee for Economic Development of Australia) on the National Health Reforms – impact for NSW

Sponsorship

General and Congress sponsorship is a welcome source of revenue as well as in-kind support for the AHHA. The Association appreciates the support of our loyal sponsor, HESTA.

We wish to thank Medibank Health Solutions, BD, the State Departments of Health in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia, and the Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, for their generous contribution to the 2010 Congress and the 2011 Simulation.

AHHA thanks DLA Piper and Holman Webb for their in-kind sponsorship, providing venues and resources for our events.

National Secretariat

AHHA's National Secretariat, located in Canberra, cares very much about improving the public healthcare system. This small team represents members' interests at the highest levels. I wish to acknowledge their work and thank them for their commitment to our organisation.

Our Executive Director, Prue Power, is dedicated to providing an excellent service to members and the sector and has been with us since 2003. She is supported by a committed and hard-working team: Maggie Crowley as Policy, Networks and Communications Manager, Terrie Paul as Director of Business Services and Sue Wright as Administrative Officer. They are supported by a small band of part-timers: News Editor - Dennis Strand, Web and Database Manager - Laura Maher, Media Consultant - Jennifer Doggett, Accountant - Denise Cardew-Hall and Bookkeeper - Jillian Williams.

This year two of our valued members left the organisation. Cydde Miller, after four years with the AHHA, has moved to a position in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, and Luise Zakosteletzki returned to her home in Austria. We wish them well.

AHHA National Council and Representatives

I also wish to thank all members who have been involved in our policy development agenda and who have represented AHHA on various committees and inquiries. We are grateful to them for sharing their expertise with us and assisting AHHA to provide such high quality input.

I especially thank our National Councillors for their dedication to our Association and for being available to support the organisation throughout the year (see Appendix 1). In particular, I wish to thank our Board members who have given dedicated support to the Association over the past 12 months. They have been Vice-Presidents, Dr Paul Scown and Dr Patrick Bolton; Treasurer, Mr Felix Pintado and Directors, Dr Yvonne Luxford and Ms Siobhan Harpur.

To those Board members and Councillors who are not returning, I know that I speak for all of us in thanking you for your commitment to the AHHA. I trust that you will continue to maintain an involvement in the life and activities of this important Association.



AHHA Honour Board

The AHHA Honour Board is attached [Appendix 3], listing all the people who have committed themselves to the AHHA over our 64 years including Life Members, Sidney Sax Medallists, Presidents, Directors and *AHR* Editors.

Conclusion

I thank you all for helping us to continue our valuable work over the past year.

Dr David Panter, President

Appendix 1**National Board and Councillors****National Board Members**

Dr David Panter	SA Department of Health
Dr Paul Scown	Health Consultant, Victoria
Dr Patrick Bolton	NSW Department of Health
Mr Felix Pintado	Freemasons Aged Care, Victoria
Dr Yvonne Luxford	Palliative Care Australia
Ms Siobhan Harpur	Tasmanian Department of Health

National Council Members

Ms Kathy Byrne	Queensland Health
Mr Grant Carey Ide	ACT Health
Ms Helen Chalmers	Country Health SA
Dr Stephen Christley	SA Department of Health
Ms Rosio Cordova	Sydney West Area Health Service
Dr Martin Dooland	SA Department of Health
Ms Jan Currie	Royal Darwin Hospital
Ms Anna Fletcher	Personal member, Victoria
Dr Mary Foley	Pricewaterhousecoopers – resigned April 2011
Ms Jane Holden	Tasmanian North West Area Health Service
Mr Graem Kelly	Mt Alexander Hospital, Victoria
Mr Andrew McAuliffe	NT Department of Health
Dr David Mountain	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital – resigned December 2010
Ms Shaune Noble	St Vincent's and Mater Health, Sydney
Mr Patrick O'Brien	Queensland Health
Dr Tony O'Connell	Queensland Health – resigned June 2011
Assoc Prof Alan O'Connor	Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, Brisbane
Mr Ross O'Donoghue	ACT Health
Mr Michael Pervan	Tasmanian Department of Health
Adj/Prof Annette Schmiede	Health Policy Consultant
Ms Joan Scott	ACT Health
Mr John Smith	West Wimmera Health Service, Victoria
Mr Mark Sullivan	Dianella Community Health Service, Victoria
Ms Sandy Thomson	Personal member, WA
Dr Annette Turley	Rockhampton Hospital, Queensland

Ex-Officio Members

Prof Helen Lapsley	International Hospital Federation
Dr Owen Curteis	Asian Hospital Federation

Appendix 2

Strategic Partners and Alliances 2010-11

Organisation	Committee	AHHA representative
International		
International Hospital Federation	Council Member	Prof Helen Lapsley
Asian Hospital Federation	Council Member	Dr Owen Curteis
National		
Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre Management Advisory Group	Member	Graem Kelly
Australian Health Care Reform Alliance		Prue Power
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	Australian Hospital Statistics Advisory Committee Meeting	Dr Paul Tridgell
Australian Multicultural Education Services		Graeme Houghton
<i>Beyondblue</i> Expert Reference Group - Doctors' Mental Health Program	Member	Associate Professor Richard Harvey
<i>Beyondblue</i> Expert Reference Group - Nurses' Mental Health Program	Member	Robert Laing
Climate and Health Alliance	Member	Rod Woodford
National Aged Care Alliance		Felix Pintado
National Primary and Community Health Network	Executive and member	Prue Power
National Rural Health Alliance	Member	Lyndon Seys
Standards Australia IT 14	Member	Prof Michael Legg
Standards Australia HE 028 Quality management and corresponding general aspects for medical devices	Members	Rosio Cordova Sandy Thomson

Appendix 3**AHHA History and Honour Board****AHHA History**

Inaugural meetings of the Australian Hospital Association were held in Melbourne on 18 November 1946 (Royal Melbourne Hospital) and in Sydney on 17 February 1947, when the first Annual General Meeting was held (Stawell Hall, Macquarie St). The driving force was Dr H H Schlink, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney. The AHA joined the International Hospital Federation when it was founded in 1949. A National Secretariat was established in Sydney in 1974. In 1976 the AHA was incorporated under the Australian Capital Territory Companies Ordinance. In 1982, National Council resolved to move the National Secretariat to Canberra. The AHA joined the Asian Hospital Federation in 2000. The organisation changed its name to Australian Healthcare Association on 9 December 1996 and then to the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association in 2006.

Honorary Life Membership

1982	Sir Alastair Stephen in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Association and healthcare in Australia
1982	Dr Sidney Sax in recognition to the Australian healthcare system through his administration, writings and research
1983	Sir John Frew in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Association and healthcare in Australia
1984	Dame Patricia McKinnon in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Association and paediatric healthcare in Australia
1985	Mr Joseph Griffith OBE in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Association and the modern hospital development in Australia
1986	Mr Royce Kronborg in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Association and healthcare in Australia
1991	Mr Keith Bagley in recognition of significant, long-term contribution to the Association and outstanding Presidency
1991	Mrs Susan Rankine AO in recognition of significant, long-term contribution to the Association and outstanding Presidency
2009	Dr John Deeble AO in recognition of significant, long-term contribution to the Association and healthcare in Australia
2010	Professor Kathy Eagar in recognition of significant, long-term contribution to the Association and healthcare in Australia
2011	Dr Bill Coote in recognition of significant, long-term contribution to the Association and to healthcare in Australia

Sidney Sax Medallists

1986	Professor James Lawson
1987	Dr Donald Child
1988	Dr Ian Brand
1990	Dr Bernie Amos
1991	Professor John Blandford
1992	Dr Diana Horvath
1993	Mr Allan Hughes
1994	Professor John Deeble
1995	Dr Rex Joyner
1996	Dr John Yu
1997	Dr Owen Curteis
1998	<i>Not awarded</i>
1999	Mr Ron Tindale
2000	Dr David Watson
2001	Dr Jon Mulligan
2002	Dr Jack Sparrow
2003	Professor Stephen Duckett
2004	Professor Helen Lapsley
2005	Professor Brendon Kearney
2006	Professor Bruce Barraclough
2007	Dr David Filby
2008	Professor William (Bill) Runciman
2009	Professor Stephen Leeder
2010	Ms Gillian Biscoe

Presidents

1946-1958	Sir Herbert Schlink
1958-1961	Mr John Plant [Sir Herbert Schlink became Patron)
1961-1969	Sir Hamilton Sleigh
1969-1971	Sir Alastair Stephen
1971-1973	Dr Douglas Donald
1973-1974	Sir Lincoln (Bob) Hynes
1974-1976	Mr Royce Kronborg
1976-1978	Mr Douglas Davidson
1978-1980	Mr Selby Steele
1980-1982	Dr Donald Child
1982-1984	Mr John Gibbs
1984-1986	Dr Barry Catchlove
1987-1988	Mr Keith Bagley
1988-1990	Professor John Blandford
1990-1992	Mr Jon Tribe
1992-1993	Professor Mark Liveris
1993-1995	Dr Diana Horvath
1995-1997	Mr Ron Tindale
1997-1999	Mr John Smith
1999-2001	Mr Allan Hughes
2001-2005	A/Professor Deborah Green
2005-2007	Dr Stephen Christley
2007-2011	Dr David Panter

Honorary Secretaries and National/Executive Directors

1946	Sir Norman Paul (Sydney) & Beacham Kiddle (Melbourne) (Honorary Secretaries)
1947	Dr H Selle (Sydney) and Col R Fanning (Melbourne) (Honorary Secretaries)
1956	Dr Sam Hatfield (Honorary Federal Secretary)
1958-1967	Dr Edgar Thompson (Honorary Federal Secretary)
1967-1974	Mr Royce Kronborg (Honorary Federal Secretary – Exec Vice-President)
1974-1980	Mr Trevor Elligett (first paid National Director)
1980-1987	Dr Errol Pickering (National Director)
1987-1989	Dr John Morris (National Director)
1989-1990	Mr Peter Read (National Director)
1990-1997	Mr Peter Baulderstone (National Director)
1997-1998	Professor Don Hindle (National Director)
1998-2002	Mr Mark Cormack (National Director)
2002-	Ms Prue Power (Executive Director)

Australian Health Review Editors

Year	Editor in Chief	Associate Editors
1974-1980	Mr Allan Hughes	
1980-1981	Dr Maureen Gleeson	
1982-1983	Dr Fedora Trinker	
1983-1984	Dr Johannes Stoelwinder	
1985-1987	Mr Jonathan Tribe	
1987-1993	Mr Chris Richards	
1993-1994	Ms Ros O'Sullivan	
1994-1998	Dr Roy Green	
1998-2003	Professor Don Hindle	
2003-2005	Professor Judith Dwyer	
	Dr Sandra Leggat	
2005-2009	Dr Sandra Leggat	
2009-2010	Dr Gary Day	
2010-	Professor Andrew Wilson	Dr Gary Day Prof. Simon Barraclough Dr Deborah Roberts (resigned 2011)