



### **AACP Membership**

Being a member of the Australian Association of Consultant Physicians means; belonging to a **key body representing you on economic and workforce issues** in negotiations with the Department of Health and Ageing, Medicare Australia and with the Australian Government. These are areas where the RACP is unable to represent you, and key areas influencing your viability and sustainability in consultant physician and paediatrician practice.

The AACP needs your continuing support so we can continue to negotiate on your behalf with the DoHA and Australian Government. **Please encourage your colleagues to join the AACP today.**

### **2008 Membership Subscription**

Renewal notices were sent out to all members in December 2007; **thank you to those members who have already renewed for 2008.** If you haven't yet renewed, please do so at your earliest convenience. You can renew online today using your credit card at [www.aus-physicians.com.au](http://www.aus-physicians.com.au). If you require a replacement personalised renewal form please let us know by return email.

### **Membership Certificates**

The AACP is now issuing current members with an annual membership certificate. Your 2008 membership certificate will be posted out shortly.

### **Meeting with Department of Health and Ageing, February 2008**

AACP's first quarterly meeting for 2008 with the DoHA and Medicare representatives was very helpful in terms of understanding the new Australian Government's health care policy, new directions of the Department and the relationship with AACP's ongoing agenda.

Discussions focussed on:

- **MBS Items 132 & 133**, and the correct interpretation and conditions of their use
- the role of **CPPs in primary and ambulatory health care**;
- the role of **CPPs and public health physicians in chronic disease management (CDM) with reference to EPC & CDM items in the MBS**, especially in areas of disease prevention and lifestyle modification;
- **prolonged subsequent review consultations**- suggested 'MBS Item number 118'. Further information and possible budget implications will be explored at our next meeting in July 2008.

### **MBS Items for Autism Spectrum Disorders**

A Medicare Benefits Consultative Committee (MBCC) will be held in for March 2008 to discuss details of new items for management of Autism Spectrum Disorders. The AACP will be attending this meeting.

A Fact Sheet on **the 'Appropriate usage of consultant physician's attendance items'** will be circulated in the near future by Medicare's Specialist Services Review section.

### **Strategy Planning Day**

The AACP Council held a Strategy Planning Day in February 2008. The previous strategy plan was revisited and a range of activities has been set out for 2008 and beyond.

Contact your AACP secretariat on (02) 9810 0061 or [secretariat@aus-physicians.com.au](mailto:secretariat@aus-physicians.com.au) if you require further information or if you have suggestions or issues to raise.

Thank you for your continued support

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Les Bolitho'.

Dr Les Bolitho  
President, AACP