

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

NEWSLETTER

30 August 2018

HSU meeting with the Minister of Health

On Monday 27 August 2018 the Health Services Union met with the Minister of Health the Hon Stephen Wade.

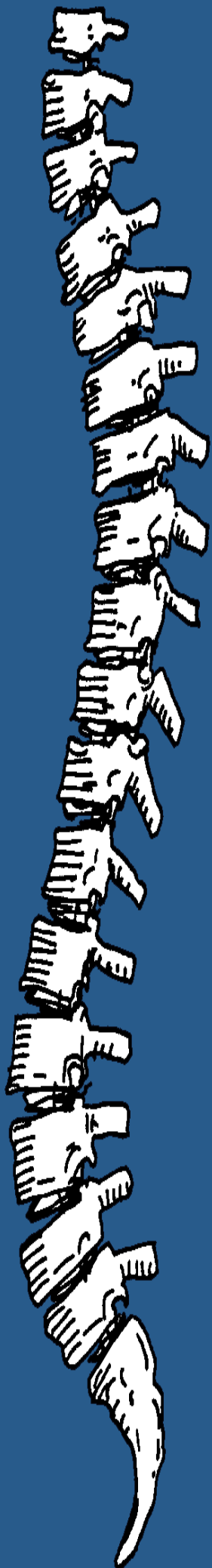
At the meeting we discussed a range of issues affecting Allied Health Professionals in South Australia, including but not limited to:

- **Lack of career structures** that facilitate Allied Health Practitioners in the health system;
- Increasingly **dire staff shortages** that frustrate admission and discharge of patients, and create a general environment in many organisations of **excessive workloads** which often pose health and safety risks to staff and patients;
- The need to establish appropriate industrial instrumentalities that provide a voice for Allied Health Professionals, including Incorporate Pathways within the health system;
- Allied Health Professionals performing **menial tasks** due to the **lack of supportive structures** like Allied Health Assistants, clerical/orderly staff etc.
- Recognition of **Aboriginal Health Practitioners** as part of health delivery to the community.

The Minister identified that Transforming Health deed provides an emphasis on the importance of Allied Health Professionals in the health system and the imperatives of increasing and developing structures that would facilitate the best outcomes for patients and the community.

Before the meeting ended, the Minister and the HSU agreed that there will be a follow-up meeting with representatives from the Department of Health and Aging as well as the HSU representatives to discuss further avenues that will provide solutions to our members' concerns.

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Training and Skills Commission IPQ Modernisation

The Training and Skills Commission is an advisory body to the Minister for Industry and Skills, David Pisoni. The overarching role of the Commission is to develop workforce development priorities for South Australia. The HSU plays a role in this Commission with regard to representing our members' concerns and professional and skills needs.

In July 2018, the Commission conducted an Industry Priority Qualification (IPQ) survey. The IPQ survey identified the vocational qualifications that the industry believes are a priority.

The Commission presented the priority results to participatory industry stakeholders, including the HSU, with the training requirements for their sectors. The purpose of this step is to provide consultative avenues, and to identify cases where the survey data does not meet the expectations of industry experts.

The HSU advised the Commission that Allied Health Assistants are an integral and important part of the health system and that in the context of comprehensive structures for Allied Health in this State it is important to categorise training for certificates III and IV as priority training. It was agreed by the consulting group that this is an important step. The Commission accepted this advice and they have classified training for Allied Health Assistants as the top priority.

The Training and Skills Commission will advise the Minister of those priorities for South Australia.

If you'd like to know more about the Training and Skills Commission, please visit their website:

<http://www.tasc.sa.gov.au/ipq>

If you have any queries, please contact

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