

Medicare Benefits Schedule - Quality Framework discussion paper and nominations for Committees

As you are most likely aware, the Australian Government announced in the 2009-10 Budget that it will provide \$9.3 million over two years to develop and implement a new evidence-based framework for managing the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) into the future – the MBS Quality Framework. The Quality Framework will generate new processes for managing the way MBS items are listed, reviewed and the way MBS schedule fees are set. The Medical Benefits Reviews Task Group (MBRTG) is responsible for developing the Quality Framework.

The Department is keen to ensure all interested stakeholders have an opportunity to provide feedback on the development of the Quality Framework and a discussion paper will be released shortly. The paper raises a number of questions for stakeholder consideration and sets out a proposed governance structure for the Framework, which includes two expert advisory committees and a broader reference committee, as follows:

- The MBS Quality Framework Reference Committee
- The MBS Quality Framework Expert Committee; and
- The MBS Fee Advisory Committee

Following the release of the discussion paper, organisations will be invited to nominate members for the committees. Nominations will close on **21 May 2010**, so your organisation is encouraged to start thinking now about whether you will be making any nominations.

A copy of the discussion paper will be emailed to you upon its release and the paper contains further information on how to nominate for the Committees. The MBRTG web page will also be updated with the discussion paper when it is released, as well as further details on Committees such as their draft Terms of Reference. The web page can be accessed at <http://www.health.gov.au/MBRTG>

Regards,

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