

9 October 2020

Mr James Downie
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority

By email to: submissions.ihpa@ihpa.gov.au

Dear Mr Downie

Re: Consultation on IHPA Pricing Framework for Australian Public Hospital Services 2021-22

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) welcomes the opportunity to provide input the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) on the Pricing Framework for Australian Public Hospital Services 2021-22 (the draft Framework).

The RANZCP is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand and is responsible for training, educating and representing psychiatrists on policy issues. The RANZCP represents more than 6900 qualified and trainee psychiatrists in Australia and New Zealand and is guided on policy matters by a range of expert committees.

We would like to thank IHPA for their previous engagement with the RANZCP on several key areas of importance for development including Mother Baby Units and consultation-liaison psychiatry services.

The RANZCP would like to note there are opportunities for further improvements within the current draft Framework including:

- implications of the development of a Teaching and Training Classification,
- issues around scope and definitions contained in the draft Framework, and
- challenges of implementing Activity Based Funding in mental health services based in rural and regional Australia.

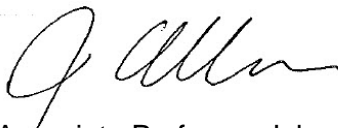
The RANZCP welcomes the decision, as mentioned in the draft Framework, for teaching and training activities to remain block funded until further work can be undertaken with jurisdictions. However, we would like to advocate that, as part of this process, medical colleges should be consulted. This will ensure adequate consideration of the likely implications that changes to block funding will have on resources for teaching and training and, therefore, the quality of the future psychiatric mental health workforce.

The RANZCP also seeks greater clarification around the scope and definitions found in the draft Framework, noting it may be helpful to explain in greater detail what constitutes a 'community health mental health service'.

For consultation-liaison psychiatry, the RANZCP would like to add that challenges remain in implementing Activity Based Funding in mental health services based in regional and rural Australia where services are stretched with minimal non-government providers available. Funding of consultation-liaison psychiatry services using the Activity Based Funding model in these settings is also challenging due to fluctuations in activity.

To discuss any of the issues raised in this letter, please contact Rosie Forster, Executive Manager, Practice, Policy and Partnerships Department via rosie.forster@ranzcp.org or by phone on (03) 9601 4943.

Yours sincerely



Associate Professor John Allan
President

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