LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

College of Science, Health and Engineering
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Public Health
DISCIPLINE OF HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Mailing address
Discipline of Health Information Management
Department of Public Health
Health Sciences Building 1
La Trobe University
Kingsbury Drive
Victoria 3086 Australia
T + 61 3 9479 1769
F + 61 3 9479 1783
E sph@latrobe.edu.au
www.latrobe.edu.au/school-psychology-and-public-health

7 June 2017

Independent Hospital Pricing Authority
Level 6
1 Oxford Street
Sydney. NSW 2000
Via email: submission.ihpa@ihpa.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam

Re. Public Comment regarding IHPA Work Program 2017-2018

Addressing Program Objective 6: Support ABF Research and Education

Deliverables:
Work with state and territory governments to develop strategies to address workforce shortages in health information management.

La Trobe University, and formerly Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences, have been producing health information management graduates for over 45 years. Throughout this entire period our graduates have been, and continue to be, extremely successful in gaining employment post-graduation.

Currently, the University's Discipline of Health Information Management offers undergraduate (Bachelor) programs at its Melbourne (Bundoora) and Sydney (City) campuses, and a profession-entry postgraduate (Master) program at Melbourne (Bundoora). The Discipline has also provided an online short course in Clinical Coding Auditing (Internal Auditing, and External Auditing) – available throughout Australasia and internationally - since 2005.

Strengths of our undergraduate and postgraduate curricula include specialist teaching in the fields of health classification (clinical coding), health data analytics, and activity-based funding models. These, together with other complementary subjects, including health informatics and health information management, are designed to prepare our Health Information Manager graduates for the contemporary workforce.
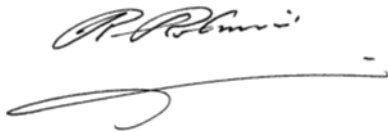
In order to help address industry shortages in the health information management workforce we would be happy to work alongside IHPA and state and territory governments to assist in marketing and promotional activities to redress the current workforce shortage.

Our long-standing reputation as leaders in this specialised field of education could assist significantly in promoting the diverse and critical roles held by Health Information Managers throughout the whole-of-health. In partnership with relevant stakeholders, we are keen to highlight critical employment roles which involve clinical costing and ABF, and encourage either individual health agencies or health departments to develop bursaries to support either existing or new staff to undertake further studies in these professional fields.

Implementation of strategies, tools and working papers to ensure that IHPA is providing information that will assist in informing its stakeholders.

Further to our current undergraduate, postgraduate, and short course current offerings, we would be interested in discussing the feasibility of introducing a targeted, specialised graduate certificate or graduate diploma covering areas of ABF and casemix, clinical coding auditing, and health data analytics. It may be possible, in conjunction with IPHA, to develop online short courses to upskill their stakeholders in these critical areas of workforce shortage.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely

Kerin Robinson, *BAppSc(MRA) (Lincoln), BHA, MHP (UNSW), CHIM*
Head, Discipline of Health Information Management
Co-ordinator, Master of Health Information Management

Merilyn Riley, *BAppSc(MRA) (Lincoln), BTh (Aust Coll of Theology), GDip Epi & Biost (Melb)*
Course Advisor, Master of Health Information Mangement
Course Advisor, Bachelor of Health Sciences (Medical Classification)/Bachelor of Health Information Management

Discipline of Health Information Management
Department of Public Health
La Trobe University
Victoria. 3086. Australia.