

Mr James Downie
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority
PO Box 483
Darlinghurst NSW 1300

7 April 2021

Dear Mr Downie,

Thank you for your invitation to submit a response to the public consultation on the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority's (IHPA) Draft Work Program and Corporate plan 2021-22.

Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA) is the peak professional association for exercise and sports professionals in Australia, representing more than 8,000 members, including university qualified Accredited Exercise Physiologists (AEPs), Accredited Sports Scientists (ASpSs), Accredited High-Performance Managers (AHPMs) and Accredited Exercise Scientists (AESs). Please accept ESSA's response with particular focus on item d) and e) of the work plan.

In a workforce mapping survey completed by ESSA in 2019 it was identified that only 86 Accredited Exercise Physiologists are working within the Public Hospital Sector across Australia. This underutilized workforce has an important part to play in enhancing patient outcomes, hospital avoidance and cost effectiveness under both admitted and non-admitted care in the public health arena. Compelling evidence exists on the efficacy and cost/benefits of exercise physiology interventions in healthcare. Various studies have demonstrated the cost benefits of allied health interventions in ESSA's 2015 Deloitte commissioned report on [Value of Accredited Exercise Physiologists in Australia](#). Expanding funding for AEPs in public hospitals will help reduce existing barriers to better health outcomes and foster long-term behaviour change given the scope of practice of exercise physiologists.

ESSA acknowledges and appreciates the IHPA's inclusion of Exercise Physiology (95550-15 Allied health Intervention – Exercise Physiology) as a stand-alone item under the Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI) minor update in 2019. We look forward to continuing to work with the IHPA to enable broad and equitable access to exercise interventions delivered by Exercise Physiologists as a vital treatment option for preventing and treating chronic disease and injury and in all Australians.

d.)Tier 2 Non-Admitted Services Classification

ESSA requests inclusion of Exercise Physiology (40.65) into Tier 2 Non-Admitted Services Classification.

Exercise physiology has not previously been included in the professions listed under the scope of Non-admitted Care (Tier 2). ESSA requests IHPA to reconsider the inclusion following an unsuccessful attempt to implement a new Tier 2 – 40.65 Exercise Physiology item driven by the National Exercise Physiology Advisory group in 2020. ESSA, with support from the National Exercise Advocacy Group is open to collaborating with the IHPA to seek solutions on the pending requirements to obtain support for



implementation of 40.65 Exercise Physiology into the Tier 2 Non-Admitted Service Classification.

ESSA seeks inclusion of Exercise Physiology as a 'usual provider' under Tier 2 40.05 Hydrotherapy & amendment to definition of service.

Hydrotherapy services are within the scope of practice of the Exercise Physiologist profession. However, exercise physiology has not been included as a usual provider under Tier 2 40.05- Hydrotherapy. (Click [here](#) to access ESSA's current scope of practice document). Where deemed clinically appropriate exercise physiologists provide exercise treatment within a water-based hydrotherapy setting. A suggested amendment to the definition of service could include: 'Hydrotherapy is a clinical exercise treatment modality carried out in water.'

ESSA recommends that the IHPA make an amendment to 40.05 to include exercise physiology hydrotherapy services and is willing to collaborate to provide additional supportive documentation to support this change.

e.)Australian Non-Admitted Care Classification

ESSA supports the non-admitted care costing study completion with the inclusion of Exercise Physiology as an intervention option for testing.

In response to the consultation for Pricing Framework 2020-21 Consultation Report in December 2019, IHPA identified that "Whilst IHPA does not include a list of in-scope professions applicable to each Tier 2 class, exercise physiology has been included on the ANACC intervention short list, which is being tested as part of the non-admitted care costing study."

ESSA acknowledges and supports IHPA working towards completing the non admitted care costing study, including activity and cost data for the ANACC within the corporate plan for 2021-2022. ESSA is interested in the results on how exercise physiology is being included in the study, and can provide further information and relevant support to facilitate the process.

Thank you again for your open consultation and consideration on the above. To discuss any of the items presented please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely ,



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