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Policy Announcements and Publications

Aged Care Education and Training Incentive (ACETI) Tax ruling

In July 2010, DOHA wrote to the Australian Taxation Office and requested a class ruling on whether incentive payments, made under the ACETI Program, constituted assessable income.

Earlier a class ruling was issued (CR 2011/69) that states that ACETI payments have been deemed to be statutory income and therefore subject to income tax. Updated information reflecting this ruling has been placed on the DOHA website and the guidelines have been amended to reflect this decision. The guidelines also advise applicants to seek their own tax advice on the application of this ruling to their own specific circumstances. Please find attached a copy of the ruling and the amended guidelines for your information.

Implementation of a Trans-Tasman scheme for joint regulation of therapeutic goods between Australia and New Zealand

The Australian and New Zealand Governments have agreed to the phased establishment of a joint Australia-New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency (ANZTPA). The Australian Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and New Zealand Prime

Minister, John Key, signed a statement of intent on a plan to progressively implement the joint agency over a period of up to 5 years. A staged approach focused on medicines, medical devices and biologicals will be adopted in order to establish the requisite building blocks for one regulatory system. The stages over five years are:

Stage 1: Enhancing business to business and resource sharing arrangements;

Stage 2: Establishment of a common regulatory framework and creation of single entry point; and

Stage 3: Establishment of the ANZTPA

It's important to note that throughout the first two preliminary phases, each country will retain its own regulator, and continue to make its own regulatory decisions. Stakeholders will be consulted further as the arrangements are developed, with consultation arrangements being implemented early in the process. It is likely that a select Ministerial Council, including Australian and New Zealand Health Ministers and other relevant ministers, will oversee the implementation. A task force will be established to inform the Ministerial Council and drive implementation, which will be achieved progressively. The establishment of the joint scheme acknowledges that the New Zealand Government is introducing a separate scheme to regulate natural health products in the New Zealand market. More information is available through the links provided.

· [Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency \(ANZTPA\) - Fact sheet](#)

· [Media release - Visit to Australia by the Prime Minister of New Zealand](#)

News and Events

DEEWR Media Release - \$500 million Education Investment Fund to transform regional universities

Regional universities and TAFEs will be able to share in \$500 million of infrastructure funding which will support the construction of state-of-the-art education facilities across regional Australia. View the media release at

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Evans/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_110713_125820.aspx

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Transparency Review - Report to improve the transparency of the TGA

The Parliamentary Secretary has approved the release of the Report of the Review to improve the transparency of the

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to the public. The Government is now considering the recommendations of the Review and will respond after that consideration. The Report can be viewed on the TGA website at <http://www.tga.gov.au/newsroom/review-tga-transparency-1101.htm>

Prescribing Competencies Framework Project

NPS are currently undertaking a project on prescribing competencies which will bring health professions together to develop, and endorse, a competency framework that documents the core knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviours and values that clinicians need to make quality prescribing decisions. Please find attached information about the prescribing competencies framework project and a list of dates and locations of focus groups which will be held to gather data to develop draft 1 of the framework. Please contact NPS if your organisation is interested in attending the focus groups via email prescribingcompetenciesproject@nps.org.au

NRHA Media Release - A strong rural focus will keep all Australians healthier

The National Rural Health Alliance welcomes the establishment of an Advisory Council to support the work of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency but warns that to have true national success, health promotion campaigns will need to be designed to be effective in rural and remote Australia and not just in cities. View the media release at

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr%20rural%20focus%20will%20keep%20all%20australians%20healthier%20final.pdf>

Rural Health Continuing Education Program (Stream 2)

The 2011 application round for the **Rural Health Continuing Education Program (Stream 2)** is now open and will close on 8 August 2011.

The 2011 RHCE2 program, funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Health and Ageing, supports qualified health professionals working in rural and remote Australia to undertake continuing professional development and inter-professional learning activities – see RHCE2 website

<http://rhce.ruralhealth.org.au/>.

RHCE2 is being administered for the Department by the National Rural Health Alliance for three years (April 2010-June 2013). Total funds available for RHCE2 project grants are approximately \$630,000 per annum, with

the final round in 2012-13. Information on the allocation of grants in Round One (2010) is at <http://rhce.ruralhealth.org.au/grant-allocation>.

RHCE2 grants are available for organisations and groups of individuals to access, develop or provide continuing professional development (CPD), continuing professional education (CPE), multi-disciplinary training or inter-professional learning (IPL) and orientation activities that meet the needs of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers,
- allied health professionals,
- general practitioners, or
- nurses and midwives

practising in rural and remote areas of Australia.

The program will support cost-effective training that can encourage increased collaboration between professions and support the attraction and retention of health professionals in rural and remote areas.

For details see the Guidelines page of the RHCE2 website. Please read the guidelines carefully before applying online for a grant. Multiple applications will be accepted but given the strongly competitive nature of the RHCE2 grants, no single entity will be given more than one grant.

In 2011, priority will be given to funding gaps in existing arrangements for CPD and supporting initiatives that are demonstrated by evidence based research as needing urgent intervention.

Support can only be provided for programs that are:

- accredited or endorsed by the relevant professional body or bodies,
- directly relevant to the current employment of intended program participants in a rural or remote area, and
- delivered in Australia.

The Alliance would like you to circulate the above information in your organisation's newsletters, email broadcasts or other publications as soon as possible to allow interested organisations and groups as much time as possible to prepare and submit their applications.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the information above please the RHCE2 Program Manager, Wendy Downs, on (02) 6162 3374 or 1800 987 440 or email rhce@ruralhealth.org.au