

Purpose

The Rehabilitation Committee comprises representatives from States with private rehabilitation beds and is chaired by the Rehabilitation representative on the APHA Council. The primary role of the Committee is to promote the role played by APHA members in the provision of quality rehabilitation services, including by participation in appropriate committees and working groups, preparation of submissions to government and other advocacy material, active membership of the National Consultative Committee on Private Rehabilitation (CCPR), liaison with other APHA committees, and by facilitating dialogue between the sector and government.

State of Rehabilitation in Australia

Separations for rehabilitation in Australia have generally increased from year to year with private hospitals playing a critical role in rehabilitation services. In 2023-24, for example, 81.5% of all rehabilitation care separations came from private hospitals, underscoring both the importance of private hospitals to rehabilitation and the need for a healthy and well resourced sector.

In recent years, private hospitals have experienced increased workforce and cost pressures that have an adverse impact on their ability to continue to invest and in many cases, remain viable. The sector is united in that there is a need to continue to be able to remain viable so as to enable the ongoing operation of private rehabilitation hospitals and services so that our patients can be confident in world-class care that is consistent, reliable, and appropriate.

Priorities

The APHA Rehabilitation Committee engages with a wide variety of subject matters that include:

- Funding for private hospitals, including through private health insurance
- Workforce issues and pressures, including staffing shortages
- Trends in rehabilitation
- Disruptions due to bundled payment arrangements
- Community mental health programs
- The Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre (AROC) and opportunities for improvement
- Rehabilitation in the Home (RITH)
- Any other relevant matters.

Chair

Ms Denise Thomas
Chief Operating Officer
Royal Rehab Group