

Subject: FW: Important information about your membership
From: Fiona Davies <news@amansw.com.au>
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From AMA (NSW) CEO

Fiona Davies

Important news about your membership

Dear

I'm sad to report that the AMA (NSW) / ASMOF (NSW) Alliance is being dissolved, but the good news is that it means service will continue mainly as normal and no action is required by you.

Alliance membership to both organisations will be honoured through to the end of this year but, beginning in 2020, only your membership with AMA (NSW) will continue automatically (or as a result of normal renewals for annual subscribers).

The very good news on this point is that it will be cheaper – prices for 2020 membership are not finalised yet but we will let you know when they are.

The reasons for not continuing as an alliance are, as with all things, complicated but the main one is pretty simple.

Over the last year but, particularly in the last few months, it has become increasingly clear that ASMOF (NSW) does not have the best interests of doctors-in-training at heart.

ASMOF (NSW) has been dragging its heels on negotiations with AMA (NSW) on the continuation of the Alliance and it has jeopardised and delayed the Hospital Health Check, the DIT Awards, and – in a significant own goal – recruitment of next year's interns.

As I was personally responsible for changing the legislation to recognise ASMOF (NSW), this has been deeply disappointing.

In the seven years ASMOF (NSW) has been in a position to renegotiate the decades-old DIT Award, it has failed to produce results on that front.

We found many of the same problems with the Health Services Union when they looked after DITs, leading to the inevitable conclusion that doctors in training don't need a union, they need the organisation that has always put them first and that's the AMA.

I'm pleased to report that the engine that has driven much of the positive change for DITs in recent years – the Hospital Health Check – is still on track to be released by AMA (NSW).

And you can expect an improved level of detail over and above what we produced last year, as well as improved summary data for easy comparison.

There is significant good news contained in the 2019 HHC results, showing measurable improvement as a result of the AMA (NSW)'s work for DITs, and we will be very pleased to share that with you soon.

As a result of the dissolving of the Alliance, AMA (NSW) will be ramping up its capacity to assist DITs with industrial issues.

It is something that we have been deliberately downplaying for the last seven years because of the way work was divided between AMA and ASMOF but AMA (NSW) can help DITs with most industrial issues.

And as a member of AMA (NSW), you will continue to be able to participate in forming and directing our DIT advocacy – the DIT Committee will continue its work.

Just as Dr James Lawler remains on the AMA (NSW) Council.

So, the short version of all of this is that if you take no further action (except for ordinary renewal of your membership, in the case of annual subscribers):

1. You will continue as a member of AMA (NSW)
2. It will be cheaper from 1 January 2020
3. You will still be a member of both AMA (NSW) and ASMOF (NSW) until the end of this year
4. From 2020, you will retain access to industrial services for DITs through AMA (NSW)
5. You will retain access to all other AMA (NSW) member benefits

This turn of events must have come as a surprise to some of you and I'm sure many of you have lots of questions.

AMA (NSW) and the DIT leadership will be providing further updates in the coming days and weeks but please [contact me via email](#) if there is something you need to know that is not addressed above.