

MAJOR CHANGES TO RDI YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT

There are some major changes likely in the after hours sector which will mean changes to the way Radio Doctor Illawarra operates. We need our member's opinions to direct the future direction of the organisation.

Please complete the 5 minute member survey—copy and paste the link below into your browser.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B6NYX9S>

Or complete the survey on the attached page and return to the address on the bottom of the survey.

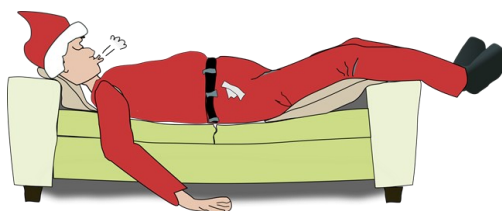
The results of the survey will be used to inform planning for a Special General Meeting to be held **16th March**



MERRY CHRISTMAS MEMBERS

Wishing all our members and staff a merry, relaxed Christmas. As usual, our professional, dedicated locum doctors will be working hard over the Christmas and new year period to provide you with an opportunity to have a well earned break. Opening Hours:

Sunday	25th December	24 hours
Monday	26th December	24 hours
Tuesday	27th December	24 hours
Wed-Sat	28th -31st	7pm to 6am the following day
Sunday	1st January	24 hours
Monday	2nd January	24 hours



OPERATING HOURS

WEEKNIGHTS:

MONDAY - FRIDAY
7PM TO 6AM

WEEKENDS:

SATURDAY 12PM MID-
DAY TO MONDAY 6AM

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

24 HOURS

*ALL YEAR ROUND

*CALL CENTRE OPENS
1 HOUR PRIOR

CLINICAL DIRECTOR WANTED

We are seeking an experienced VR or FRACGP doctor, with after hours work knowledge to provide the Radio Doctor Illawarra team with clinical advice, support and assistance to the team at Radio Doctor Illawarra. Estimated time commitment 2.5 hours per week @ \$150 per hour.

See our website radiodoctor.com.au for more information or call Frank on 02 42273251 or email frank@radiodoctor.com.au

PROTECT HOME VISITS CAMPAIGN

We are concerned about some changes currently being considered by the government which, if passed, will substantially affect the viability of the Wollongong Medical Services Co-operative Ltd (trading as Radio Doctor Illawarra). Amongst a number of proposed changes the most significant for us include:

- Reduced access to overseas trained doctors which currently comprise about 65% of our after hours workforce
- Reduction in the After Hours Medicare rebates

The National Association for Medical Deputising Services (NAMDS) has been working to prepare a variety of reports and evidence to present to the government. They also have a public campaign www.protecthomevisits.com.au if you would like to add your support to the campaign.

Please reflect for a minute on how life might be very different for the doctors in your practice if we returned to the days of being responsible for their own after hours coverage? What might also be the impact on our emergency services emergency departments?

AFTER HOURS DOCTORS WANTED

We are always looking for Doctors interested in working after hours on a regular or semi-regular basis.

What are the benefits?

- Well paid, no expenses
- Doesn't affect your daytime commitments
- Short shifts
- Vehicle and professional driver provided
- Interesting, challenging and rewarding work
- Bonus for members: Receive an additional \$650 credit off membership subscription fees

Who we are looking for:

- Hardworking, reliable unrestricted Doctors
- VR or GP Registrar (2nd Year+), overseas trained doctors and those on 457 visas

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a range of marketing materials available to members, including:

- ◇ **MAGNETIC FLIERS**
- ◇ **BUSINESS CARDS (and holders)**
- ◇ **INFORMATION BROCHURES**
- ◇ **POSTERS (A4+A3)**

All can be ordered upon request – simply call us or email

enquiries

@radiodoctor.com.au

OUR MAJOR SUPPORTER

We are delighted to announce that **Coordinare – the Primary Health Network** for the Southern NSW region will continue to support our provision of expanded after hours medical services across the Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama areas. Their support will allow us to improve our service delivery across the region. We are most appreciative of their efforts to work with us to provide solutions to patient care after hours.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT MEDICAL DEPUTISING IN AUSTRALIA

You may have read criticism of after hours medical services in the public and medical media. Keep in mind that there are over 100 so called medical deputising services and only 20 of these meet the stringent definition of a medical deputising service as established by the National Association of Medical Deputising Services. (NAMDS) Radio Doctor Illawarra is a foundation member. Some other quick facts to keep in mind:

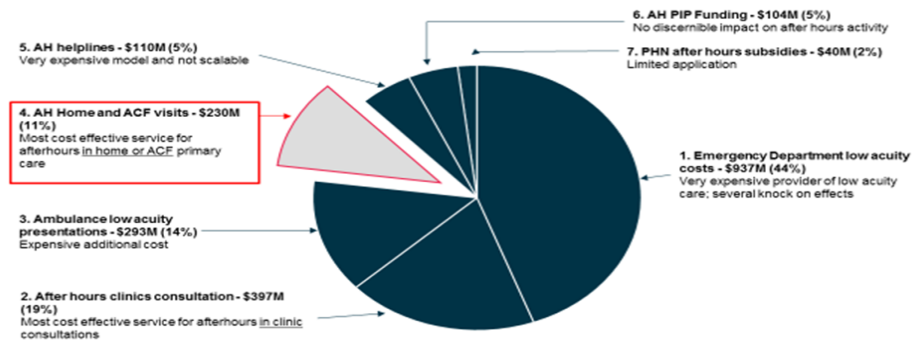
1. **After Hours Home/Aged Care visits only comprise 11% of total after hours primary care costs see graph 1**

After hours spend comprises many different models

After hours ambulance and ED costs significantly higher cost than home visits



Estimated Total AH primary care spend (2014/15)
(\$2.1 Billion)

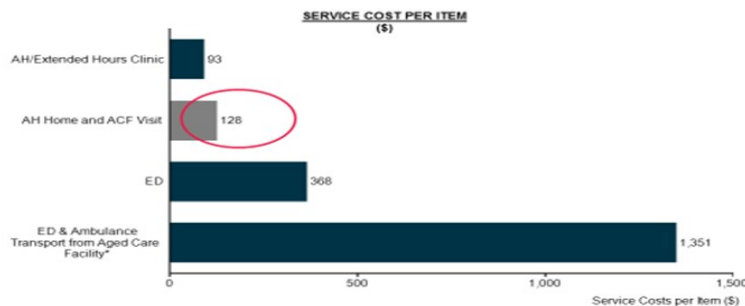


Source: IHPA – National Efficient Price Determination 2015-16

Confidential 7

2. **It is a considerably more cost effective option than all other full after hours options see graph 2**

AH Home Visits are a Low Cost Alternative to an unnecessary ED Presentation and at times the *only* alternative to the ED



Source: MBS, Australian Hospital Statistics, Jackson Review, Deloitte Access Economics – Nov 2016

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Deloitte's After Hours report go to <http://www.namds.com/documents-and-links.html>

MEMBER SURVEY 2017

Go online to complete the member survey by copying & pasting the following into your browser

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B6NYX9S>

Or print out a hard copy of the attached pdf document, complete and return it to the address provided. You only need to complete the survey once.

GP INSTRUCTIONS

After Hours Doctors usually work without the benefit of a full patient history, medications list, access to pathology, radiology etc.

Our new patient system makes it much easier for you, as a member GP, to provide us with specific patient instructions. This might be to let our doctors know about medication concerns or restrictions.

You can arrange a patient instruction by contacting the staff at Radio Doctor Illawarra on 4227 3251.

BOARD MEMBERS 2016-17

Dr Jeff Hall	Chairman
Dr Darryl Bryant	Secretary
Dr David Grant	
Dr Elizabeth Magassy	
Dr Michael Vesey	
Mr Frank Wallner	CEO

QUICK FACTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

- ◆ Serviced patients from Coledale in the north to Gerroa in the south
- ◆ Radio Doctor vehicles travelled over 200000 km
- ◆ Responded to over 35000 calls and completed over 19000 visits
- ◆ Providing after hours coverage for over 300 doctors in over 80 practices across the Illawarra
- ◆ Employ 21 staff and 16 regular locum doctors
- ◆ Most patients attended in less than two hours
- ◆ Board comprises five experienced General Practitioners
- ◆ All services still bulk billed to Medicare/DVA card holders

NEW MEMBER

Illawarra Aged Care Doctors