

Private Practice Special Interest Group

Background

Changes in the Australian health care environment with an increased focus on preventative care, primary care and general practice has provided opportunities for diabetes educators to practice outside the traditional work environment of tertiary and secondary health care sector. Simultaneously, recognition of diabetes education as a specialty health care practice and recognition by government and private health care providers of Credentialed Diabetes Educators (CDEs) as the health care professionals appropriately qualified to deliver diabetes education, has introduced new practice and employment opportunities for CDE in the primary care sector, including:

- Medicare Australia has introduced Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) Items for individual and group diabetes education consultations.
- Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has included diabetes education in the suite of services for eligible veterans.
- Private health insurers have recognised CDEs and are starting to offer insurance products that include reimbursement for diabetes education.

This has resulted in CDEs now increasingly being able to exercise choice with respect to their personal employment situation e.g. primary care or tertiary, state health or private hospitals, general practice contract or self employment. An increasing number of CDEs are now choosing to remain self employed as independent consultants in diabetes education.

Aim

To strengthen opportunities for CDEs to choose to practice diabetes education as an independent and/or self employed practitioner.

Objective

The Private Practice Special Interest Group (PP SIG) is a community of ADEA members who:

- Seek to engage the ADEA membership to raise the awareness of opportunities for CDEs to choose independent employment whilst engaging in specialty diabetes education as an essential component of diabetes management and care within the primary and the tertiary care sector.
- Support each other, shares experiences and collaborate on professional issues unique to their particular practice environment.

Process and procedure

The PP SIG operates in accordance to ADEA's *Guidelines for Establishment of Special Interest Groups*.

Membership

Membership to the PP SIG is open to full ADEA members who have chosen or are considering taking up the opportunity to practice diabetes education whilst remaining partially or fully self employed.

Membership is granted on requesting inclusion by notifying the ADEA National Office (NO) by email.

Appointments of leadership

Leadership positions are honorary roles.

Financial full ADEA Membership is required for leadership roles.

Appointments as Convener and Forum Moderator are in accordance with the *Guidelines for Establishment of Special Interest Groups*.

Reporting and communications

The Convener reports achievements against the annual activities plan annually to the ADEA Board via the Chief Executive Officer.

The Convener provides recommendations on behalf of the SIG to the ADEA Board via the Chief Executive Officer on: initiatives that may strengthen CDEs abilities to choose independent employment opportunities that suit their individual circumstances; and issues related to the SIG's specific interest or professional practice area.

The Convener in collaboration with the SIG members prepares and submits a report to the Chief Executive Officer for the ADEA Annual Report.

The Convener reports and communicates with the Board and the ADEA membership as outlined in the *ADEA Guidelines for Establishment of Special Interest Groups*.

The Convener forwards documents to the ADEA NO for uploading onto the PP SIG website.

The Forum Coordinator monitors the PP SIG Forum to ensure compliance with the *ADEA Code of Conduct for Diabetes Educators*.

The PP SIG circulates all draft documents to the Board via the Chief Executive Officer for review and endorsements prior to any dissemination for consultation with the general membership.

All documents are clearly labeled "Draft" until such time as endorsed by the ADEA Board and/or adopted as ADEA policy.

Meetings

The Special interest group convener needs to provide an agenda for the annual face to face meeting at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Budget

Any funding of the PP SIG to cover project proposals and/or teleconferences must be part of the ADEA's budget process and is allocated at the discretion of the ADEA Board.

References and related policies and procedures

ADEA 2011 *Constitution*.

ADEA 2004 *By-laws*.

ADEA 2010 *Code of Conduct for Diabetes Educators*.

ADEA 2012 *Guidelines for Establishment of Special Interest Groups*