

**Peter Kerestes, Chief Executive Officer**

Welcome to the first edition of 'PHIIA News' our way of keeping you up to date with all the latest from PHIIA. We intend issuing PHIIA News on about a quarterly basis.

**Key Initiatives**

- Code of conduct

We've been drafting the Code over the last 12 months. It has now been adopted and copies lodged with various agencies ( PHIO, AHIA, DoH, PHIAC) . Accompanying this newsletter are your copies of the Code.

We have appointed the Compliance Committee with an independent chairman Roy Ellis, 2 PHIIA directors, Matthew Brown and John Small, and PHIIA's CEO (ie me).

You don't need to do anything at the moment except read it. There's more training and documentation to come.

We believe that it is a very strong and professional Code that will stand us in good stead with the community.

- 457 Visa Holders

Last year the Federal Government changed the regulations to making the visa applicant responsible for having health insurance. A number of our members were affected by this change although so were a large number of other players including general insurers.

Last year we hosted a meeting of the participants and adopted a minimum product requirement largely formulated by the PHIO. Please note that the product is not governed by the Private Health Insurance Act.

During this year it was evident that a number of players did not have products which complied with the minimum standard agreed previously. They had until mid September 10 to comply.

We therefore called another meeting of the clans on 29 June 10. The Immigration Department were the party accepting the products and PHIIA offered to be the independent umpire on determining product acceptability but the department did not seem keen on this. Ultimately we agreed on everyone complying with the minimum product standards by mid September however, we at PHIIA are somewhat sceptical about this. Ultimately it is up to the Immigration Department to enforce.



## Membership

- Annual membership fees are now due and if you haven't paid them yet please do so.



## Other

- The Federal Election will be held on 21 August 10. It is noteworthy that if Labor wins they will reintroduce their legislation to modify the PHI Tax Rebate and may even get it through the new Senate. Which is of course their right.

We'd love to hear your feedback so don't hesitate to contact me.

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