



Society for Health Administration Programs in Education

Call for Informed Public Debate on the Reform of the Management and Organisation of Health Services

Media Release: 10 December 2008

The Society for Health Administration Programs in Education (SHAPE) is calling for informed public debate in response to the current review and reform of the Australian Healthcare System.

SHAPE's mission is to promote excellence in aged care and health service management education and research in the Asia Pacific region. It provides an academic forum to debate educational issues, encourage innovation and enhance research that leads to improvement in the overall management and organisation of health systems, and, therefore, to improved service delivery.

SHAPE today released its position paper on the call for informed public debate for healthcare system reform (*The SHAPE Declaration on the Organisation and Management of Health Services*- author David Briggs). The paper was published in the Asia Pacific Journal of Health Management.

SHAPE National President, Assoc Prof Godfrey Isouard, said SHAPE academics lead the way in the research of health systems structure, policy development and service delivery.

"The SHAPE Declaration defines the way forward in terms of policy focus, systems enhancement, service delivery and governance. It also highlights the need for long term government commitment to health service managers in terms of strategically supporting their ongoing education and development. This is seen as essential for any successful implementation of reforms in health systems.

"The need for improvement in the management and organisation of health services is evident. Rising health costs, the growing impact of chronic disease, an ageing population, and the inefficiencies derived through a disjointed funding and policy mechanism, are just a few of the many challenges ahead. Despite current national health expenditure being in excess of \$94 billion, significant issues exist in terms of access and equity, safety and quality, poor health

outcomes for indigenous and others with special needs, workforce shortages and a lack of focus on the promotion of health and wellbeing.

“SHAPE supports the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) in its current review of the health system.

“SHAPE is ideally positioned to lead the call for informed public debate on health service reform for sustainable improvements in service delivery. Our members have the necessary expertise, and professional knowledge and experience of the health care system. We are strongly positioned to provide sound leadership and advice to the NHHRC and Government on the effective organisation and management of health services and health reform,” Assoc Professor Isouard said.

CONTACT:

Assoc Prof Godfrey Isouard, SHAPE National President
g.isouard@uws.edu.au; (02) 9685 9938/ 0419 478 431.

David Briggs, APJHM Editor and Coordinator Health Management and Gerontology Programs, University of New England. dbriggs@une.edu.au
0267655398; 0411471203_____

ATTACHMENTS:

Briggs D. *The SHAPE Declaration on the Organisation and Management of Health Services: a call for informed public debate*. Asia Pacific J Health Management. 2008; 3 (2): 10- 13.

Isouard G. *A real opportunity for SHAPE and ACHSE to lead the national debate for health system reform*. Editorial. Asia Pacific J Health Management. 2008; 3 (2): 4- 5.

Grima R. *Informed Public Debate Required on the Management and Direction of the Australian Healthcare System*. Asia Pacific J Health Management. 2008; 3 (2): 5.

The SHAPE Declaration and other relevant documents are included as attachments. Also available at www.shape.org.au.

APJHM Content Flyer