

## Breaking News!

**The Attendant Care Industry Management System Standard:  
2008  
has been finalised.  
Plans for Industry Certification are well underway**

(for more details see Items 2 and 3 below)

## Seasons Greetings



**ACiA wishes you all the best for this festive season**

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### 1. ACiA AGM

ACiA's fourth AGM was held on 30 October 2008. Reports were given on the major activities for the preceding financial year, particularly the advancement of the Quality Certification Program and ACiA's move to become a National body. Progress made



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on these activities is outlined below. Elections were held for the Committee of Management (COM) members. Lyn Franco is confirmed as the new President of ACiA. Other COM members are listed on the ACiA website.

An event to thank Barbara Merran was held after the meeting. Barbara was instrumental in its establishment of ACiA in 2005 and was the inaugural President. She has worked tirelessly for the industry, with her focus being on increasing the profile, professionalism and quality of attendant care services across Australia.

### 2. ACiA National Quality Certification Program

#### Endorsement of Standard

The ACiA Attendant Care Standard will now be known as the:

*Attendant Care Industry Management System Standard 2008 (ACIMSS).*

The Standard has been submitted to Joint Accreditation System for Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) for endorsement.

#### Recognition of Certification

A major reason for the development of the ACIMSS and the related Certification is to try and minimise the quality reporting/assessment requirements for service providers. Therefore, a major part of ACiA's ongoing direction is to work with funding bodies to ensure that Certification is duly recognised. This will involve mapping of the Standard against various funding body requirements to stop duplication of work. To this end, ACiA has joined DADHC's Quality Framework Industry Reference Group, and seeks to be part of National and State discussions. This includes meetings with funding bodies to seek their recognition of the Standard and sitting on various funding body industry reference committees.

#### Certification Program

Work is continuing on the development of the Certification processes and a training calendar has been developed (see Item 3 below). Once an agreement is signed between JAS-ANZ and ACiA, Accredited auditing bodies can apply to be able to Certify to the Standard. It is expected the first Certification Audits will occur in the first half of 2009.

ACiA believes this program will significantly enhance the professionalism and quality of Attendant Care services across Australia.

### 3. Preparation for Quality Certification – Training Workshops

A program of events to assist organisations prepare for ACiA Certification has been developed. The workshops are focused on key compliance areas, where ACiA feels organisations will have the most difficulty supplying evidence of meeting the Standard. Details of the events, along with an expression of interest will be forwarded separately to members and will be also posted on the ACiA web-site.



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### 4. ACiA Forums

#### Forum Dates for the Diary in 2009

Two Forums will be run in the first half of 2009. These will complement the education program being launched in 2009 and assist providers with achieving Certification. More Forums will be run in the second half of 2009. Forum topics are still being confirmed.

Forum Dates: **Thurs 5 March 2009**  
**Thurs 28 May 2009**

### 5. Another ACiA Policy: Non-Oral Medication

Attached is ACiA's latest policy that supplements the previously released policies, particularly the 'Oral Medication' policy released in May. The policy has also been added to the ACiA website for wider access and use <http://www.aciansw.org.au/>

#### **ACiA Guideline 003:**

**Administration of Medication Other Than Oral, in the Community (Dec 2008)**

### 6. A National Body

ACiA is continuing to work on becoming a national organisation and progress is steadily being made on this major project.

### 7. ACiA Office Update

Jenny Barron has now been appointed as ACiA's Executive Director. This follows Heather Holden's decision not to return from maternity leave.

ACiA would like to take this opportunity to thank Heather Holden for her contribution.

The office will close on 23 Dec (inclusive) and will reopen on 5 Jan.

### 8. Other Representations

ACiA has either direct representation, or representation through COM members, on:

- DADHC Quality Framework Industry Reference Group
- LTCSA Council
- NSW HACC Representative Council
- NSW Palliative Care.

ACiA has lodged a submission to the Australian Government on the proposed National Disability Strategy.

A number of presentations have been made at Industry Forums and to funding bodies.



### 9. Relevant Government News

#### *Disability Services*

From its meeting in November, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed on the following initiatives relating to Disability Service:

- Commonwealth will provide approximately \$5.3 billion in funding over five years to the States for specialist disability services, an increase of \$408 million. This funding is targeted at support services provide services that assist people with disability to live in stable and sustainable living arrangements and assist families and their Carers in their caring role.
- Commonwealth is also giving the States an additional \$1.3 billion in funding over five years, including \$901 million from the Disability Assistance Package to be rolled into the base of the Specific Purpose Payments
- As part of the new disability reform:
  - Each State will improve access to disability care, including consideration of a single point of access
  - Movement towards nationally-consistent assessment processes and a quality assurance system
  - There will be a renewed focus on early intervention, matched by more consistent access to disability aids and equipment
  - There will be greater flexibility in funding. Service providers will be better able to develop, train and employ care workers.
  - Governments will work together to measure better the level of unmet demand for disability services.

Adapted from COAG Communiqué

[http://www.coag.gov.au/coag\\_meeting\\_outcomes/2008-11-29/index.cfm#health](http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2008-11-29/index.cfm#health)

Some aspects of these reforms are already being addressed by the Working Together Program. Updates can be found at can be found at

[www.health.gov.au/communitycare\\_thewayforward](http://www.health.gov.au/communitycare_thewayforward)

#### *Dementia Support*

The Australian Government has committed \$120 million a year for the ongoing support for the National Dementia Initiative. This includes:

- \$90 million a year for Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia Packages;
- \$24 million a year for dementia research, prevention, early intervention and improved care; and
- \$7 million for training for aged and community care staff, carers and community workers such as police.

#### *Draft Disability Standards for Access to Premises*

The Australian Government has released Draft *Disability Standards for Access to Premises*. They are intended to provide better access to new and upgraded public buildings for people with a disability by making it clearer what is required to avoid discrimination. The requirements of the Standards will be mirrored in the Building Code of Australia. This will greatly reduce complexity by aligning building law and discrimination law. The Standards and documents can be accessed at:

[www.ag.gov.au/premisesstandards](http://www.ag.gov.au/premisesstandards)

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