



# Pre Budget Submissions

**W**ith the end of 2005 fast approaching, Government departments will have already started the process of preparing their funding bids to Treasury and Finance for the 2006-2007 Federal Budget.

The process normally followed by Government is as follows:

- ◆ **September** - Departmental budget bids submitted to Minister responsible;
- ◆ **October to December**
  - ⊕ aggregation of budget bids across all portfolios
  - ⊕ economic outlook and forward estimates prepared by DoFA & Treasury
  - ⊕ Cabinet & Central Agencies consider aggregated submissions
- ◆ **January to May** - Cabinet's Expenditure Review Committee (ERC – or the razor gang) considers all bids in light of the economic outlook and within the terms of the Government's own fiscal and policy imperatives.

The process has already commenced (see Treasurer's announcement overleaf) and time is already short for taking advantage of the opportunity to create policy change and influence the Government agenda. To ensure your organisation has a say in this process, it is vital that you act now about your own budget submissions and lobbying strategies.

#### Health policy changes in 2005/06

- ◆ Medicare initiatives;
- ◆ Productivity Commission reviews
  - ⊕ Health Workforce reporting date brought forward from February 2006 to October 2005 – with clear budget implications;
  - ⊕ Medical Technology Costs;
  - ⊕ Impact of Ageing;
  - ⊕ Competition Reform.
- ◆ Review of Divisions of General Practice

- ◆ Hogan Review of Aged Care – with remaining issues to be announced soon;
- ◆ Australia-US Free Trade Agreement – impact on PBS
- ◆ House of Representatives Committee on Health and Ageing Inquiry into Health Funding;
- ◆ Podger Inquiry on health reform across national, state and territory boundaries
- ◆ Negotiation of the Third PBS Agreement.

There have also been calls for national health care reform to reduce duplication of service and cost-shifting between federal and state systems, as well as increased pressure on the acute sector around waiting lists, staffing and quality.

#### Government Health Policy Priorities

These events give an indication of the issues being given priority in health policy:

- ◆ Population ageing
- ◆ Cost containment
- ◆ Workforce
- ◆ Quality and standards
- ◆ Mental health

#### Importance of making a Submission

Now is the time to act if you want your organisation's message at the forefront of the political agenda. By lodging a pre-budget submission you will:

- ◆ Ensure your views are on the record
- ◆ Advocate for funding and services in areas that you consider to be priorities
- ◆ Demonstrate to your members or constituents that you are engaged in the budget process
- ◆ Offer a media opportunity to air the view you have lodged with Cabinet.

**The team at Client Solutions can help you achieve these goals. With unparalleled expertise in public affairs and advocacy in the health portfolio, Client Solutions has advised on and written previous budget submissions for a number of health organisations. We have excellent contacts and networks within the media and political parties.**

**Our experience has taught us that submissions need to be sharp, concise and achievable, with a demonstrated evidence-base. We can assist you in preparing a submission and/or undertaking a professional advocacy program that helps you to "stand out from the crowd". Depending on the complexity of the issues, it is possible for us to produce a submission for you quickly and at a reasonable fee.**

**Don't wait until it's too late. Contact the Client Solutions team now to ensure your organisation's policy and funding ideas are communicated purposefully to the Department of Health and Ageing, to the Central Agencies and to Cabinet, in time for proper consideration in the budget process.**

## The Client Solutions Advocacy Team

<b>Mr David Kindon</b>	Client Solutions' Managing Director. 35 years as a health policy advocate and strategist in Canberra. Ex CEO of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. Oversight of Client Solutions' Diagnostic range of Clients both in Australia and New Zealand.
<b>Dr David Brand</b>	Director of Client Solutions. General Practitioner, ex Federal President of the AMA, serving on several major health committees. Oversight of Client Solutions' Medical and Healthcare range of Clients.
<b>Hon. Trish Worth</b>	Senior Policy Advocate. Ex Federal Minister responsible for the PBS, TGA, Food Safety, Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol. Health sector professional before entering Parliament. Contributing vast networks of contacts and knowledge of policy and lobbying at the Federal level
<b>Ms Jennifer Doggett</b>	Senior Communications specialist, previously advisor to senior Senator. Communications Manager for ADGP. Serves across a wide range of clients focusing on media management and communication strategies.
<b>Ms Sarah Aldridge</b>	Consultant, previously worked as an assistant in the media and publishing team at the AIHW, specialises in communications and research support
<b>Dr Robert Bain</b>	Senior Economist. Ex Secretary General of the AMA. Ex federal agency Head (ABARE). Wide range of senior and current networks and contacts in the health sector



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### 2006-07 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

I am inviting submissions from individuals, business and community groups on their views regarding priorities for the 2006-07 Budget.

The Government places considerable importance on receiving community views in developing its budget strategies and policies.

It would be advisable for those interested in making a submission to do so as soon as possible, to ensure its consideration in the budget context.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 11 November. Where the submission is more than 10 pages in length, it would be helpful if a short executive summary, of no more than two pages, could be included.

Submissions longer than 5 pages should be accompanied by an electronic version, either on disk or CD, or emailed in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat format.

Submissions should be forwarded to the address below:

*Address for Submission:*                      *Contact officer:* David Crawford  
Budget Policy Division                      Telephone: (02) 6263 3725  
Department of the Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600

Or email to: [prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au](mailto:prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au)

21 September 2005