

APA Congress to discuss future of physiotherapy

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Physiotherapists could potentially fill a gap that exists in the servicing of overcrowded accident and emergency wards in public hospitals throughout Australia.

This notion, plus many other discussion points relating to the future scope of physiotherapy will be discussed during the Australian Physiotherapy Association National Congress, to be held at the Marriott Resort & Spa, Surfer's Paradise from the 28 - 30 October, 2010.

The practice of physiotherapy is currently constrained by legislative and cultural barriers that have not kept pace with changes in the health care environment in Australia.

Mr. Pat Maher, President of the Australian Physiotherapy Association said **“With the ageing of both the Australian population and health workforce, the current shortage of qualified health professionals will inevitably worsen. One initiative to relieve pressure on the overburdened health system is to expand the use of physiotherapy assistants to free up qualified physiotherapists who can relieve pressure on overworked doctors”**.

As a profession, physiotherapists will discuss a better use of their skills within their training and capabilities, to collectively ease the pressure on the public health system

Another key topic to be discussed at the congress will focus on the clinical education opportunities for physiotherapy students. Mr. Maher added **“It is essential that all physiotherapy students gain experience in all aspects of clinical practice, such as rural and remote settings, indigenous health and aged care so that on graduation students are highly qualified and competent to work across all health areas”**.

There are still opportunities for practicing physiotherapists to be involved in the Australian Physiotherapy Association National Congress.

The keynote speaker at the conference will be Dr Marilyn Moffat President of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy. As well as being a nationally acclaimed practitioner teacher and author, she has also been instrumental in developing international guidelines for physiotherapy education and standards of practice around the world.

To register for the Australian Physiotherapy Association National Congress <http://physiotherapy.asn.au/congress10/>

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