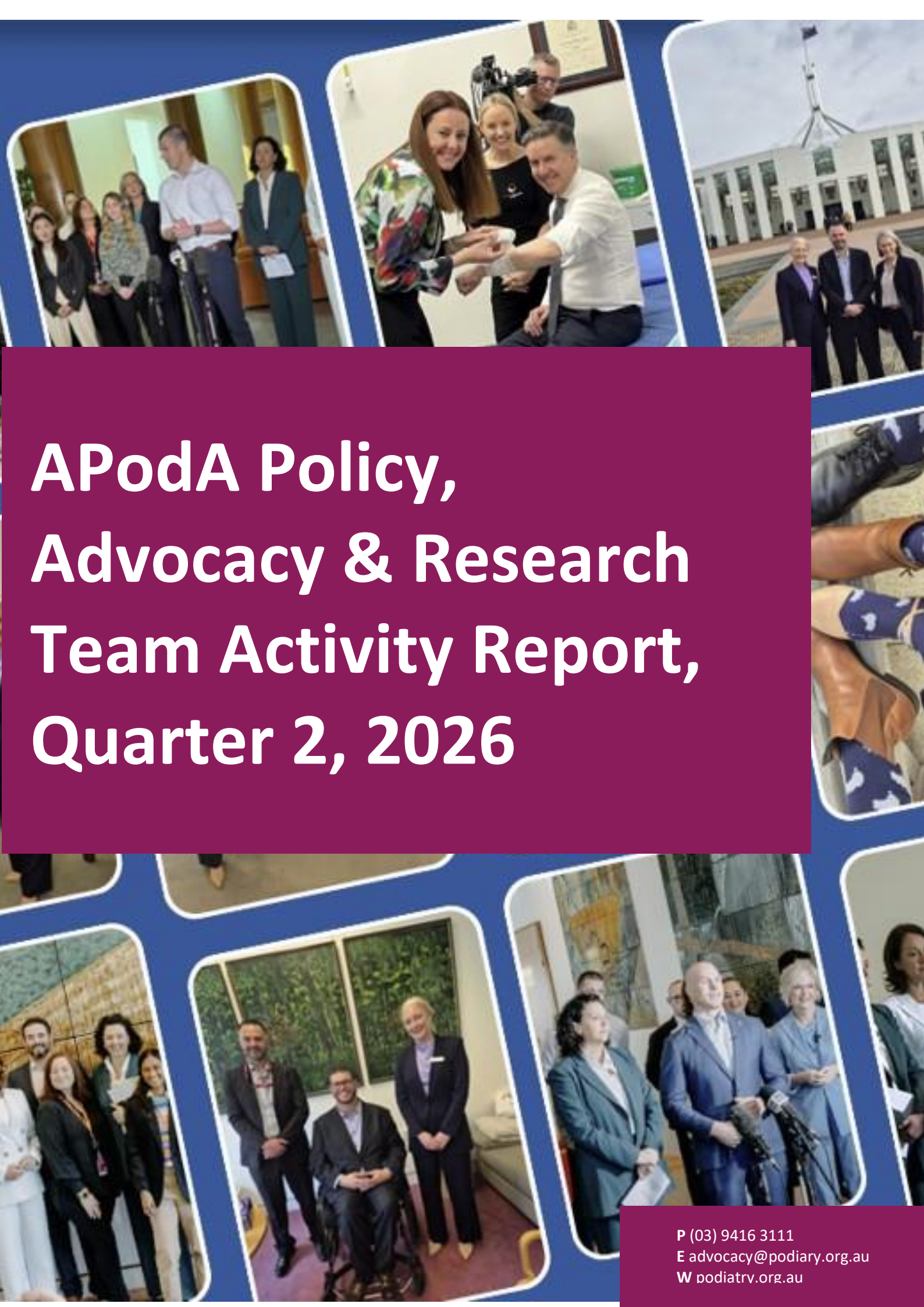




APodA Policy, Advocacy & Research Team Activity Report, Quarter 2, 2026

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Introduction

The APodA continued to progress work in several priority areas across quarter two of 2026 including aged care (Support at Home), disability (NDIS), primary care (Medicare), DVA allied health caps and fraud, and engaged with the top policy makers in Australia on access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). This encompassed direct engagement with a range of stakeholders to collaborate in areas where our advocacy aligns.

This quarterly report provides the opportunity to look back on where and how the APodA has advocated for the profession, including members involvement in advocacy activities. It also provides an overview of the work of the Policy and Advocacy (PandA) team across the whole of organisation.

In the spirit of continuous quality improvement, feedback on this report is welcome and can be directed to the PandA team via email advocacy@podiatry.org.au

Top advocacy wins

Advocacy involves many small steps towards a larger win. In quarter two, here are the significant wins:

- The amendment, sponsored by Senator Jacqui Lambie, allowing prescribing podiatrists to be included on the PBS was passed in the Senate with the support of independent Senators, the Coalition, the Greens and One Nation. The legislation was then rushed to the House of Representatives where the Opposition and independents provided support, but Labor had the numbers and voted against the amendment, which wasn't passed. Upon return to the Senate, the nursing PBS amendment was unanimously voted through.
- The APodA appeared at the Victorian Parliament's inquiry into claims made through the Transport Accident Commission (TAC). This marked an important milestone for the profession, with the APodA being called to parliament to speak on behalf of the podiatry profession for the first time.
- The Federal Government has committed \$169.7 million over five years in the 2026-27 Federal Budget to improve allied health support for veterans following recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, including increased support for podiatry services. From 1 July 2027, in room podiatry consultation fees for eligible veterans will rise from \$94.60 to \$110 for standard consultations.
- Two of the APodA's recommendations were adopted in the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs report on the transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme to the Support at Home Program. The recommendations are:
 - Introduction of direct subsidy payments in thin markets to support provider sustainability and prevent service withdrawal.
 - Consultation and co-design with service providers and peak bodies regarding the future of CHSP.
- Inclusion of podiatrists as assessors of the I-CAN Assessment Tool in the NDIS.
- Presentation to the National Committee of Chief Allied Health Officer (NAHAC).



Written submissions lodged (7)

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare: Primary Care Data Consultation
WorkCover Queensland: Allied Health Services Table of Costs for 2026-27
Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority: Pricing Framework for Australian Support at Home Aged Care Services 2027–28
Parliament of Victoria, Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee: Inquiry into claims made through the Transport Accident Commission (TAC)
Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme: Integrity of the National Disability Insurance Scheme
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs: National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026
Pharmacy Board of Australia: Endorsement of scheduled medicines for pharmacists

Consultations completed

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing: Aged Care Data and Reporting Review, Phase 2 consultation with clinicians – Dr. Robert Mullins was podiatry representative
Nous Group in partnership with First Nations Economics: Support at Home and Single Assessment System Evaluation – Kristine McKenzie was podiatry representative
University of Queensland in partnership with The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing: National Pharmacy Workforce Analysis – Stephen Tucker was podiatry representative
Healthcare Management Advisors: Chronic Wounds Consumable Scheme
Brisbane South PHN Workshops
Thriving Kids

Government Relations, engagement with policy and decision-makers (politicians)

Office of Dr. Sophie Scamps, MP (2 meetings)	
Office of the Hon. Matt Keogh, MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs	
Office of Senator Jacqui Lambie (1 meetings), Senator for Tasmania	
Ms Dai Lei, MP, Member for Fowler	
Presentation of evidence at the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into TAC Claims	
Correspondence sent to more than 30 MPs regarding PBS	
Correspondence sent to Minister for Seniors and Aged Care	

Engagement with Strategic Stakeholders

Ahpra Podiatry Board of Australia
Diabetes Australia
Maurice Blackburn
HealthInfoNet
Diabetes Feet Australia
Australian Digital Health Agency
HICAPS
Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
Monash University
Pharmacy Guild of Australia
NSW Podiatry Council
Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation
Commonwealth Chief Allied Health Officer
Australian Primary Care Nurse Association
Australian College of Podiatry Deans
Dietitians Australia (DA)
Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing – Compliance Division
Joint meeting with Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA), DA, Australian Association of Psychologists, AHPA – Senate evidence on integrity in DVA
DVA Repatriation Commissioner
DVA Integrity Unit
NSW Chief Allied Health Officer

NAHAC – Committee of Chief Allied Health Officers (presentation)

iCare NSW

Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners

Representation

AHPA working group meetings held monthly – Aged Care, Primary Care, Disability, Digital Health. The media and comms working group have also met about the NDIS, PHI, Butler's press club address. Member Collaborative Forum is bi-monthly. Annual General meeting is once a year.

Australian Indigenous HealthInfonet Round Table

Sport Exercise Podiatry Australasia Conference 29-31 May

Adelaide PHN Workshop – member representative, Maria Latemore

Ahpra Professions Reference Group

DVA Health Provider Partnership Forum

National Quarterly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Online Forum – presentation on Diabetes and Your Feet – member representative, Natalie Morgan

Projects

Vascular Assessment Consensus Paper – Round 2 of Delphi Project completed.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Vascular Assessment Research – agreement being negotiated

Workforce Profile Report – due to delays, 2026 renewal data to be incorporated in with available data from APodA and Ahpra for a descriptive profile report.

Costing Project – Drafted discussion paper using literature on Time Driven Activity Based Costing. Reviewed by Health Economist from Monash University.

Workforce Strategy – consultation discussion paper drafted and shared with the APodA CEO

Workers Compensation Premiums – written to states and territory Ministers to seek clarification

Research requests

Perspectives on multidisciplinary care for people with musculoskeletal conditions in allied health private practice in Australia – barriers, facilitators and opportunities for collaboration

MRFF EMCR Accelerator Grant Application: "Increasing physical activity in people with hip osteoarthritis using prefabricated contoured foot orthoses: a national randomised controlled trial and health economic evaluation

Attitudes towards maggot therapy for chronic wounds: A mixed methods equipose study of Australian clinicians, patients, and informal carers.

'Barriers and Facilitators to Offloading in Diabetes-related Foot Ulceration in Australia: A Qualitative Exploration

LGBTQIA Safe Spaces – LGBTQIA inclusive primary care workforce training and accreditation

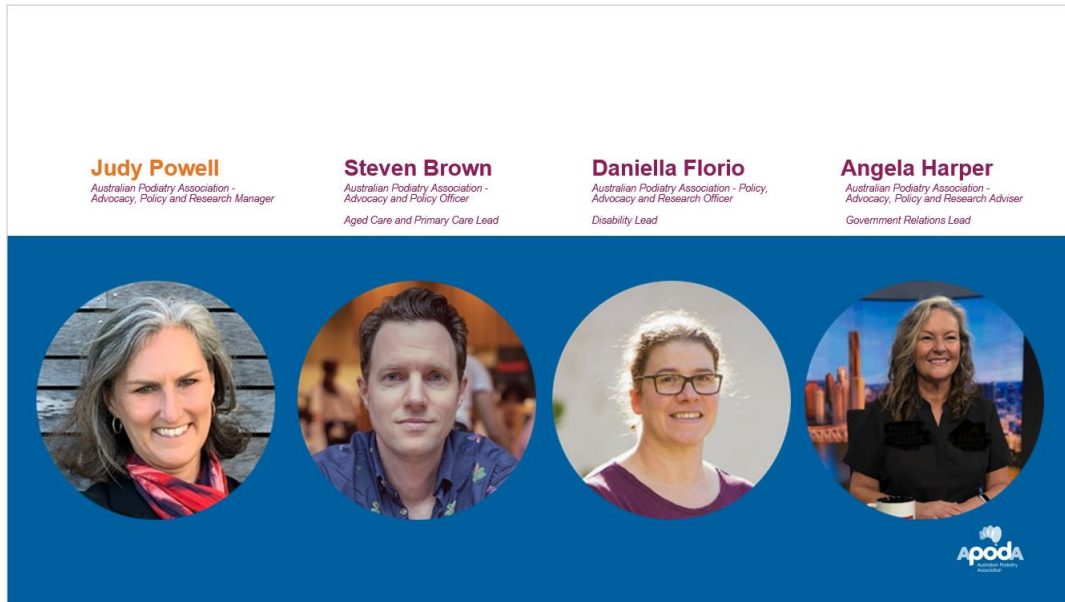
Australian Podiatrist's online advertising: Podiatrist interviews

Attitudes Towards AI Use for Allied Health Professionals

Allied Health Workforce Survey Review

Whole of Organisation

During quarter two, the PandA team worked collaboratively across other pillars and service areas within the APodA to contribute to delivering a range of activities. One of the key activities of note that included almost 150 participants was the Policy and Advocacy Webinar. This webinar provided an opportunity to share the latest news on reforms and APodA's advocacy activities across aged care, NDIS, Thriving Kids, Medicare, DVA and PBS. Other activities of note are below.



Member services – practice support

- Assisted with daily practice support calls and emails with podiatrists on how to work with the Support at Home rules, NDIS policies, Medicare Assignment of Benefit and TGA registration.

Member services - Education

- Delivered an education webinar on advocacy covering aged care reforms, MBS & DVA changes, NDIS and Thriving Kids, PBS advocacy – 163 registered, 149 attended.
- Delivery of the Digital Health Change Leads Project with education.

Member services – resources

- Advocacy letter templates for PBS, Aged Care Reform and NDIS (price freeze)
- Policy Briefs for NDIS (APR and price freeze), DVA and Aged Care
- Development of digital health resources for members as part of the Digital Health Change Leads project

Member services – SIGS & Meetings

- Attendance at monthly Special Interest Group meetings with MIP, PIB, MSK, APP, PAC
- Thriving Kids – meeting with members with an interest in Paeds
- NDIS APR – meeting with Kylie Gates
- NDIS Consumer stories – meeting with Maria Lattemore
- Professional standards – meeting with Tomas Megalaa

Staff Education

- Lunch N Learn delivered on the NDIS & Thriving Kids

Marketing - EDM

- APodA advocacy update for April, May and June 2026

Marketing - Media

- Media release on Federal Budget announcement about increased DVA fees for podiatry.
- Pedicure safety and infection control – secured ABC Radio Perth interview
- Retail Media Article on footwear

Marketing - Website pages

- PIB SIG website page update – cyber security risks
- My Health Record – resources and education added
- Submissions and Reports page updated with all Quarter 1 2026 submissions added
- PBS page update
- Aged Care – update to advocacy area
- NDIS - updated in Member services area and Advocacy area
- TGA – updated member services area
- Medicare – updated member services area
- Latest News website page:
 - Responding to NDIS Annual Pricing Review 2026-27: a freeze is not a neutral outcome
 - APodA advocacy update for April, May & June 2026
 - Government responds to sector concerns re: Medicare Assignment of Benefit changes. Here's what podiatrists need to know.
 - Veteran healthcare reforms put podiatry in the spotlight

Marketing – Social media content

- APodA urging Senate to support an amendment to the Health Legislation Amendment (Prescribing Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2025.
- The APodA response to the NDIS Annual Pricing Review 2026-27 and freeze
- APodA appeared at the Victorian Parliament's inquiry into claims made through the Transport Accident Commission (TAC)
- Support at Home price caps deferred
- Federal Budget win with DVA fees for podiatry set to rise from July 2027
- Medicare Assignment of Benefit changes
- Research – Help shape the future of diabetic foot care, QUT
- Research – Attitudes towards AI use for allied health professionals
- Research – In home aged care research priorities survey
- Research – barriers and facilitators to offloading in diabetes-related foot ulceration in Australia: A Qualitative exploration
- Medicare update for podiatry, effective 1 July 2026
- Diabetes Australia – Foot forward: Supporting the people you see with diabetes to prevent foot disease

- Research – Attitudes towards maggot therapy for chronic wounds: A mixed methods equipose study of Australians, clinicians, patients, and informal carers.
- Ahpra consultation open on CPD and Recency of Practice
- TAC provider check in survey
- Reshare AHPA post on My Health Record featuring APodA Board member Dave Shaw
- Research – Australian Podiatrist's online advertising: Podiatrist interviews
- ABC Perth interview, What's the risk of infection from manicures and pedicures
- Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, updated resource on foot health
- DVA Providers Town Hall
- Office of the Australian Information Commissioner about Privacy Awareness Week
- Reshare LinkedIn post – Applications now open: Quality & Safety and Wound Care Microcredential (fully funded, 2026)
- Support at Home Survey (4 posts)
- AHPA National Digital Health Webinar #3: My Health Record in Practice: What allied health professionals need to know now
- AHPA's digital hub
- DVA supporting veterans to access treatment (re: fuel crisis)
- TGA survey on personalised medical devices
- Cyber security risks

Marketing - Publications

- Two Articles in July Edition of Stride – 1. Funding Schemes; 2. PBS
- Article in Annual Report