



## COMMUNIQUE Meeting 7-8 February 2005

The February Coalition meeting reached unanimous agreement about the working relationships between ADGP and the SBOs within the Divisions Network. We agreed that, at this time it is critical that we demonstrate our effectiveness as a Network, and work together to improve confidence within the Australian Government in the Network's ability to deliver health outcomes for GPs and their communities.

The coalition reinforced the roles and responsibilities of ADGP and SBOs at the national and state levels with the aim of strengthening the Network and its capacity to speak with one voice and deliver clear and consistent messages.

To achieve this, Coalition members agreed to take on a stronger role in the following three areas:

1. Leadership and advocacy for the Network
2. Communication and capacity building for the Network;
3. Proactively influencing policy at the National and State levels

The Coalition met formally with David Learmonth and Lisa McGlynn from the Central Office of the Department of Health and Ageing who expressed their support for the directions proposed. Items discussed included the progress of the Review Implementation Committee and the timelines for implementation.

The Canberra venue provided for informal networking with other senior Departmental officials including the head of the Department, Ms Jane Halton.

Actions from the meeting include;

- The development of positions to inform the WA State Support structure review and the Rural Workforce Review;
- Planning for the National and State RIC workshops;
- Progressing key issues for the implementation of the RIC National Quality and Performance Framework such as Accreditation, financial reporting, new funding agreements, data collection for program indicators;
- Agreement to develop a Network Communication and Marketing strategy to enable the positive promotion of the achievements of the Network;
- Identification of recent changes to the *HealthConnect* governance model and implementation plans to assess the potential impact for the Network;

For more information on any of the items discussed above, please contact your SBO representative in your state or territory.