



Tasmanian General Practice Divisions Ltd
Rural Workforce Support



Queensland Divisions
of General Practice
Association Incorporated (IA18808)



SA Divisions
of General
Practice Inc



COMMUNIQUE Meeting 26-27 May 2005

In building on the agreement reached at the February meeting, the Coalition again focused on the relationship and operations of the Divisions Network. In agreeing to work collaboratively as a Network, the Coalition agreed to working towards a strong and robust platform for the Network, in order to have the ability to deliver to our stakeholders and funders into the future. In considering the current network's activities, vision and mission, the group agreed for the need to move towards the next era for the Divisions Network and the need for this direction to be articulated, and will be consulting with division members in the continuing development of such a vision.

This issue was also discussed with the Department of Health and Ageing's senior staff, David Learmonth and Lisa McGlynn from the Central Office, who spent considerable time with the Coalition discussing in an open and frank manner, the ambitious agenda for the Divisions Network. The discussion also included issues such as;

- Department's recognition of the need to focus more on the Data and Information Strategy for the Divisions Network;
- Assessment of the Department in delivering to Divisions (ie; Divisions assessing performance of the Department);
- The Department reaffirmed their objective of moving the Division's performance framework from input processes to outputs and outcomes;
- Willingness to meet with SBOs and Divisions in local regions, to see the great work and programs Divisions implement; and
- Identifying and promoting 'good news stories', of programs being run by divisions around Australia.

The Coalition also discussed the need for improved performance in the Network. As one component of this, a discussion was held around a proposal for advanced governance training for the Network.

In addition to this, the group discussed at length the work being undertaken, as one component of the RIC reforms, on the review of the Divisions Funding Formula. The importance of this activity was discussed, and the need for all divisions to partake in discussions as to the drivers for the formula – that being, why divisions exist. This is sure to be a hotly debated topic, with the coalition ensuring that all previous work in this area is accessed and available to the network for review and consideration.

Andrew Stuart, the First Assistant Secretary, Population Health Division of the Department also spent some time with the Coalition discussing issues of a process for, and focus on, urgent health communication with General Practice (eg; in the event of a pandemic). SBOs discussed their work to date and interaction with state health, and how this could be built on. Future work in this area will be undertaken in consultation with the Network.

The Primary Health Care Policy Statement for the Divisions Network is being developed, with a key focus on being a practical solution driven document for use by the Divisions Network. The

Coalition agreed to progressing this work, with a draft Statement developed for wide consultation in early July, with a launch at the National Divisions Forum.

Again, the Canberra venue provided for informal networking with other senior Departmental officials including Philip Davies and Megan Morris (Workforce, Practice Nursing, After Hours).

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