



SA Divisions
of General
Practice Inc



Tasmanian General Practice Divisions Ltd
Rural Workforce Support



Queensland Divisions
of General Practice
Association Incorporated (IA18808)



SBO-ADGP COALITION COMMUNIQUE

Meeting 1 – 2 June 2006

The SBO/ADGP Coalition, a strategic group comprised of the Chairs and CEOs of Australian Divisions of General Practice and the State Based Organisations for Divisions, held its second quarterly meeting for 2006 in Canberra on 1-2 June.

Coalition members met with senior representatives of the Department of Health and Ageing. Key issues discussed related to COAG health initiatives and recent Commonwealth budget initiatives particularly regarding mental health and the prevention and early intervention of chronic diseases and the likely roles for Divisions. The representatives reiterated that Divisions remain the Departments' provider of choice but maintaining consistency across the Network is always a continuing challenge. The Department confirmed that COAG and budget funding for some of the new initiatives will be channelled through Divisions. Further, programs similar to MAHS will be available to rural and remote Divisions to deliver additional services. Other issues discussed included:

- **Feedback on 6-month reports to the Department:** The Department advised that some changes to the current report are likely and that web-based reporting is being examined. There was broad agreement that the Department would work with the Network to move more towards outcomes based performance reporting. The Department is looking at ways of balancing variances between State offices to improve consistency in assessing Division and SBO reports. State offices will be required to report monthly to Central office on delays in payments and/or where payments have been withheld.
- **The national performance and development pool:** The Department received positively a Coalition suggestion to use future performance pool funding on initiatives to train staff in non-collaboratives Divisions in the collaboratives methodology in order to build Division's and Network capacity.
- **Network capacity:** There was agreement on the need to identify and implement effective mechanisms to strengthen, improve and sustain high levels of performance and Network capacity.
- **Information Management within Divisions:** The Department advised that a consultant has completed a scoping study of the information management environment within Divisions. The outcomes of the study will be used by the Department to develop a national IM plan for Divisions.
- **Chronic disease management:** The Department was advised that Medicare Australia is restricting the use of GP Management Plans (GPMP) because of their different interpretation of what is a chronic disease. The Department agreed to take back for consideration that GPMP should focus on managing identified risk factors rather than chronic disease management and agreed to raise the issue with Medicare Australia.
- **Bowel Cancer Screening Program:** The Coalition were strong in their view that the program would not be effective without funding at a Divisional level to support the role of general practice in this initiative. If not addressed, the Coalition believed the issues of safety and quality would cause great concern at a community level.

The Coalition also discussed a wide range of Network related issues including:

- **The Value of the Divisions Network consultancy:** The aim of the consultancy is to evaluate the effect of Divisions on costs, quality and outcomes of primary health care and the broader health care system.

- Branding for the Divisions Network: The objective is to develop resources, strategies and tools to bring Divisions together as a network and to brand and sell a cohesive national network with capacity to deliver at national, regional and local levels.
- Divisions Digest: ADGP is developing a benchmarking survey of Division's business operations and services as an additional resource for use by the Network; and
- Indigenous Health: the Next issue of "Dynamic Divisions" will highlight Division's work in indigenous health.

For more information on any of the items discussed above, please contact your SBO.