



Tasmanian General Practice Divisions Ltd
Rural Workforce Support



Queensland Divisions
of General Practice
Association Incorporated (IA18808)



SBO-ADGP COALITION COMMUNIQUE

Meeting 28-29 September 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, held its third quarterly meeting for 2006 in Canberra on 28-29 September.

The Coalition welcomed Dr Tony Hobbs, ADGP Chair to his first Coalition meeting. Sincere thanks were also expressed to Dr Jenny Thompson for her strong support and involvement in the ADGP SBO Coalition during her tenure as Chair of ADGP.

The Coalition recognised the need to revise its terms of reference and strategic priorities and agreed to share the costs of a policy support officer to progress the work of the Coalition.

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

- **Performance and Development Pool Funding:** The Coalition received an update from ADGP about the proposed roll out of community engagement training for the Divisions Network. This training will be supported by funding provided through the performance and development pool.
ADGP has also held some initial discussions with members of the Divisions Network to seek advice and input to inform a national proposal to the Department for training in collaborative methodology for Division staff. The Coalition supported this approach as an alternative to the competitive process that occurred in the last funding round.
- **COAG:** ADGP and SBOs shared information on the implementation of COAG initiatives in each state and agreed to keep each other informed of key developments. ADGP and SBOs continue to advocate for the role of divisions as a provider of choice in a number of key COAG initiatives.
- **Network capacity building:** The Coalition agreed that support and capacity building were key roles for SBOs and recognise the value in formalising a consistent approach in this area. A small working group was formed to progress this and report back to the November meeting.
- **GP Census:** The Tasmanian SBO provided a demonstration of the GP Census database. This web based system provides a mechanism to collect, summarise and report data on GP workforce and to undertake Division based surveys of GPs. The Coalition agreed to support the development of a business case for national roll out.
- **Network lobbying toolkit:** The Coalition recognised the critical need for all members of the Network to engage with their local members of parliament to deliver key messages including Divisions as a provider of choice. ADGP was developing a tool kit to be disseminated to all Divisions.

Coalition members met with senior representatives of the Department of Health and Ageing. This included our first formal meeting with Jennie Roe, A/Assistant Secretary, General Practice Divisions and Information Branch. Jennie Roe identified the 4 strategic objectives for the Departments Primary and Ambulatory Care Division

- Making general practice attractive and sustainable
- Access to the right practitioner at the right time

- Making best practice, easy practice
- Finding the balance between accountability and red tape

The Department indicated their desire to identify successes and good news stories from across the network and that staff from the Department were keen to visit SBOs and Divisions across Australia.

The Coalition also met with Lisa McGlynn, Assistant Secretary, E health and technology. The Coalition sought clarification from Lisa about the Departments strategic directions in the area of information management. Concerns were expressed about the new closing date for the managed health networks grants process. Lisa recognised the important role of the RHIMOs in informing and implementing future e health initiatives.

On Friday 29 September, the Coalition met with Nathan Smyth, Assistant Secretary, Mental Health Reform Branch to receive an update regarding the Department's Mental Health COAG initiatives. Nathan briefed the Coalition about the current status of DoHA's COAG initiatives and emphasised the importance of a whole of government approach. Nathan indicated that the department was still undertaking planning regarding identification of auspicing organisations for some of the initiatives. The Coalition strongly advocated for the Divisions Network to be considered as a provider of choice in the roll out of key Mental Health COAG initiatives.

ADGP provided updates on work being undertaken for the benefit of the network including

- Value of the Network Study
- Divisions Digest
- National branding and communication
- Future directions and priorities in Aged Care GP panels

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