



Tasmanian General Practice Divisions Ltd
Rural Workforce Support



Queensland Divisions
of General Practice
Association Incorporated (IA18808)



SA Divisions
of General
Practice Inc



SBO-ADGP COALITION COMMUNIQUE Meeting 24 November 2006

The SBO/ADGP Coalition, a strategic group comprising the Chairs and CEOs of Australian Divisions of General Practice and the State Based Organisations, held its last quarterly meeting for 2006 on the Gold Coast on Friday 24th November.

The meeting signed off Terms of Reference for the Coalition of ADGP and SBOs and endorsed the three strategic priorities of proactively influencing policy development and implementation; strategic leadership and advocacy; and knowledge sharing and capacity building.

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

The Review Implementation Committee: The RIC was established to implement the recommendations of Philips Review of Divisions. The Department believes that task is now substantially complete. The Coalition agreed that the RIC has served its purpose and that advice for the Department about the Divisions Network should be made available through the Coalition of ADGP and SBOs.

Funding for Divisions: The meeting discussed issues surrounding the funding formula and future funding for the divisions and noted that these are on the agenda for the RIC meeting on 1st December. The Coalition will communicate with divisions following that meeting. The Coalition agreed on the importance of ensuring that full indexation is made available to divisions for the 07-08 financial year in accordance with the contract.

Refugee Health: The Coalition discussed the negative impact on the health of some refugees who are legally admitted to Australia but have one of the range of visas that preclude access to Medicare. It was agreed that ADGP would work with other GP organizations to advocate for refugees' access to Medicare.

GP Census: The meeting discussed the potential to roll out nationally the Tasmanian online GP survey. This web based system provides a mechanism to collect and report data on GP workforce and to undertake Division based surveys of GPs. The meeting supported the national rollout and agreed to refer it to the Divisions CEOs meeting (to be held on 25th November).

Mental Health: The Coalition discussed divisions' concerns about the lack of processes for GP input to the planning and implementation of the *Better Access* initiative. The meeting to lobby the Department to set up an advisory group, to include GPs working in mental health, for the Better Access initiative. The meeting also agreed on the importance of rolling out the program of multidisciplinary training in a coordinated way through divisions.

Pandemic flu: The Coalition agreed there is an urgent need for a strategic national approach for pandemic planning, and asked ADGP to investigate the possibility of national funding for divisions to enable them to support practices.

The meeting identified topics for future discussion:

- National Primary and Community Health Network
- Working with state governments and health departments
- Draft discussion paper by ADGP on general practice funding models
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- Divisions and community engagement
- Quality and Safety
- General practice re-accreditation