



SA Divisions
of General
Practice Inc



SBO-AGPN COALITION COMMUNIQUE Meeting 14-15 February 2007

The SBO/AGPN Coalition, a strategic group comprising the Chairs and CEOs of Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) and the State Based Organisations (SBOs), held its first meeting for 2007 in Canberra on the 14-15 February.

A significant part of the meeting was held in discussions with senior members of the central office of the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). One of the major issues for discussions was future funding of the Divisions Network. The Coalition welcomed the Minister for Health's recent announcement confirming future funding for the network from 2008 - 2011 and the return of full indexation from 2007 - 2008. DoHA also confirmed they will write to all Divisions in the near future with more information, including funding levels for the periods. **The Coalition noted there will no changes to the Division Network's core funding formula.**

DoHA raised the issue of the future of the Network, structural efficiencies and possible amalgamations. If Divisions are to be regarded as a provider of choice, they would need to perform efficiently and effectively. It was suggested that the small size of some Divisions will make it difficult to deliver on program objectives and the current expectations under the Multi Program Funding Agreement. The Coalition acknowledged this is a significant issue requiring mature and considered discussion across the network. **DoHA also reiterated that to be eligible to receive funding under a future funding agreement, Divisions will be required to be accredited.**

The group also discussed the way forward in e-health, the review of the NQPS, pandemic planning and primary health care policy.

Following discussions with the Department, the Coalition identified four strategic priorities areas which included:

- Proactively influencing policy development and implementation;
- Strategic leadership and advocacy;
- Knowledge sharing and capacity building; and,
- Enhancing coalition performance and capacity.

The activities for these four priorities will initially include negotiating with DoHA on the review of the NQPS and MPFA, enhancing the Division Network's capacity in tendering for contracts, the staged expansion of the Tasmanian GP workforce census and survey and developing a strategic approach to state health issues, such as the ACHAs, AHMAC and the CoAG agenda.

Discussion on embedding quality improvement across the network was identified as a priority. Options for a systematic approach to this were discussed and a discussion paper will be developed for consultation with the network.

Initial discussion was held and feedback provided on the draft discussion paper focusing on funding models for general practice and Divisions, with SBOs and Divisions providing feedback to AGPN on this paper – feedback to SBOs is required by 7th March 2007.

It was agreed that common issues and approaches to engaging with state health should be shared across SBOs.

The Coalition re-endorsed the Network's position on indigenous health, as articulated in the AGPN-NACCHO MoU which emphasises collaborative rather than competitive work between Divisions and aboriginal community controlled health services. The Coalition also discussed the Network's contribution to and use of the AGPN Resource Centre (clearing house).

The Network Strategic Planning process was discussed with a framework agreed for Divisional consultation and input through the SBOs with a goal of completion prior to the network forum in November 2007.

A broad range of other issues were also covered over the days, including pandemic planning, refugee health, GPRG, headspace, CoAG, Effectively Engaging with Communities and the quality use of medicines agenda.