

## GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK LEADERSHIP GROUP (GPNLG)

# COMMUNIQUE

Meeting held in Hobart on Wednesday 14 November  
CHAIR: Dr Patrick O'Sullivan, General Practice Tasmania

**PRESENT:** AGPN: Dr Tony Hobbs, Ms Kate Carnell and Ms Liesel Wett, NSW: Dr Linda McQueen and Mr Matt Hanrahan, QLD: Dr John Kastrissios and Ms Ann Maree Liddy, VIC: Dr Rob Grenfell and Mr Bill Newton, WA: Dr Rachel Hammond, Mr Chris Carter and Ms Samantha Dowling, SA: Dr Mike Bekoff and Mr Chris Seiboth, TAS: Dr Patrick O'Sullivan and Ms Sarah Male, NT: Mr Paul Acfield, ACT: Mr Richard Richard Bialkowski and Dr Annie Lim

**APOLOGIES:** Dr Sarah Giles (NT)

The final meeting of the General Practice Network Leadership Group for 2007 was held in Hobart on 14 November.

The meeting commenced with a discussion of a range of operational matters that had been brought forward by members including the AGPN role statement issued by DoHA, the relationship between the Network and the Department of Health and Ageing, likely changes to performance indicators and a draft new contract between DoHA and the S/TBOs for the Divisions Network eHealth Project to replace the current two contracts with AGPN for the Regional Health Information Management Officers (RHIMO) and State Based Information Officers (SBIO).

The Group agreed to convene a teleconference on 29 November to further progress these matters once the outcome of the election was known and further information had been provided by DoHA.

A range of strategic issues that had been put forward were also discussed including:

- The opportunity for the Network to articulate a position and to have strategic and operational input into the implementation of the Labor GP Super Clinics should there be a change of Government;
- The opportunity for a consistent approach among States and Territories to the development of GP and Health Service Provider Directories;
- The need for States and Territories to take up the issue of integrated after hours services with their State/Territory Governments particularly in relation to the continued implementation of the National Call Centre;
- Anticipated funding risks associated with the delays in the rollout of ABHI Integration Funding;
- The contents of a Federal Budget Submission for 2008-09; and
- Lessons from the Northern Territory emergency response and the impact of workforce incentives in the NT on other States and Territories.

At the end of the meeting the Group reviewed its role and method of working and agreed to the development of a new Standing Agenda and mechanisms to ensure continuity of communications.

The group also noted that the name change that had occurred at the August meeting from the AGPN-SBO Coalition to the General Practice Network Leadership Group (in recognition of the exclusion of the territories from the previous title) had been a matter of controversy in some States.

The CEO members of the Group will meet next via teleconference on Thursday 29 November.

For further information please contact your State/Territory Based Organisation.