

GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK LEADERSHIP GROUP (GPNLG)

COMMUNIQUE

Meeting of CEOs held in Victoria on Tuesday 11 December 2007

CHAIR: Kate Carnell, AGPN CEO

The CEOs of all SBOs and AGPN met in mid December to progress the work of the GPNLG. A number of projects and actions were progressed.

A major agenda item was the network's discussion on communications, and the name change of the group from the AGPN-SBO Coalition to the General Practice Network Leadership Group (GPNLG).

A draft communications protocol was discussed which will be made available for member comment in the new year. This communication process mirrors existing documentation in the network, and includes clear processes for division members to place items on the GPNLG agenda and to receive feedback about issues discussed. Achievements of the group over the last nine years were noted including successful lobbying for funding to 2011, presentation to AHMAC, national development of GP Census, Primary Health Care position statement and other joint policy statements, the Divisions Network Executive Leadership Program and the Community Engagement education and training program were examples. These achievements and new projects of the GPNLG will also be made available on the web for member review and input in the new year.

The GPNLG spent time discussing member feedback received at the Australian General Practice Network Forum in November 2007 regarding the leadership role of the group. The GPNLG acknowledged that network leadership occurs at a number of levels; locally, on a state level and nationally, and that the strength of the network comes from local leadership and diversity. As the group that consists of elected leaders from AGPN and State Based Organisations (ie; elected Chairs of each SBO and AGPN), the group is best placed to provide national network leadership with national stakeholders. The GPNLG acknowledged that there are other leadership mechanisms in place across the network and that leadership was clearly not the exclusive domain of the group. The group agreed to continue to operate as the General Practice Network Leadership Group and thus bring together network issues of national importance.

The GPNLG agreed to implement a state based feedback process on the newly released MPFA and national performance indicators. AGPN will provide national feedback based on the work of divisions on a state basis to ensure the department receives feedback by the end of January 2008 as requested.

A further substantial GPNLG project based on a priority identified by the group was to develop a detailed pitch that articulates the place of Divisions in working with state health departments and in becoming a provider of choice particularly in the area of chronic disease prevention and management. The group started work on a model of care, based on a literature review and evaluated experiences from within the network (ie; GP Partners work, HARP models in Victoria, NSW Health reforms, Whitehorse DGP work) that would be developed to put forward nationally (by AGPN to the new government) and by SBOs (to State jurisdictions). This model proposes a clear role for divisions and general practice in assisting with hospital avoidance and chronic disease management, with appropriate funding and resourcing mechanisms to do so.

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

- The development of a number of member services to be offered to divisions, including a common financial management system. A draft paper will be circulated to all members for their input in the new year;
- The progression of ideas and work being completed for the network to have strategic and operational input into the implementation of the GP Super Clinics – an initiative of the new Federal Government;
- A meeting with the Improvement Foundation Australia (Chairman) to raise issues currently being experienced by the network; and
- Feedback for ideas to include in the Network's budget submission, due to Treasury by mid January 2008.

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