

Message from the CEO Sue Baker-Finch

'The Australian Divisions of General Practice is your organisation. Our national office team is here to support divisions, assist GPs to network with each other and to translate practical medical experience into national health and service policy. We rely on your input if we are to do that effectively.'

Introducing the Australian Divisions of General Practice

General Practitioners are key players in meeting the health care needs of the community. Health care at the end of the millennium is complex, sophisticated, multi-faceted and increasingly reliant on information and medical technology. General practice has had to respond to this changing health care environment.

Today's GPs know they cannot 'go it alone'. They need contact with and support of their colleagues. In both urban and rural areas, local Divisions of General Practice are bringing GPs together to benefit from each other's experience and from the experience of other health care providers. Through effective networking, divisions continue to set up new and innovative health services and promote skills enhancement and information exchange. The 123 divisions provide general practice with an organised infrastructure to help GPs participate in the health system. The Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) is a vehicle at the national level through which they can do this.

What we do - Represent, Advocate and be a Resource

As a representative, ADGP works with divisions to identify key issues of importance and prioritise issues to be pursued at the national level.

As an advocate, ADGP works in partnership with divisions, SBOs and Rural Workforce Agencies (RWAs) to present our perspectives and policy positions to federal government, other national medical and health care organisations and the wider community.

As a resource, ADGP promotes communication between divisions, assists divisions in governance, management and policy guidance and acts as a clearing-house for information. The ADGP offers opportunities for non-clinical professional development, skills enhancement and mentoring for divisional members.

By working through their divisions, SBOs and the ADGP, Australia's GPs will be able to influence and contribute to national policies directly affecting health care service delivery.

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*Providing
National
Leadership
for Divisions
of General
Practice*

The ADGP - Translating Local Experience into National Policy

Being involved in my local Division of General Practice enabled me to work with other GPs in my area on real service delivery issues and achieve practical outcomes. Around Australia, many divisions like mine are initiating and coordinating community-based projects and programs, which range from antenatal clinics to palliative care.

I know, from personal experience, the value of being involved in programs and projects like these. We benefit from networking with other GPs, and we can deliver better health care to our patients.

The Australian Divisions of General Practice will enable us to build on and link these networks at the national level. By improving networks and communication between GPs across Australia, we hope to contribute to improving professional satisfaction. The ADGP will give my fellow GPs the opportunity to have their say on national decisions affecting health care service delivery. Our aim is to translate the practical experience of GPs at the local level into policy and action that will make a difference.

Dr John Aloizos
Chairman

ADGP STRATEGIC DIRECTION

VISION

Improving the health of all Australians through
General Practice

MISSION

To represent and support General Practitioners
through Divisions of General Practice

ADGP OBJECTIVES

- Communication
- Representation and advocacy
- National policy development
- Divisional development and support
- Skill development and exchange
- Public information

ADGP STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

- Improved stakeholder communications
- GP and divisional input into primary health care policy
- Pro-active representation of the divisions
- Highly professional divisional infrastructure supporting GPs
- Highly skilled leaders and managers within divisions and leadership pathways for GPs
- Improved group cohesion, co-operation and collaboration
- Improved quality of life for GPs

A New National Player

Divisions now have a voice at the state and national levels. Having established state-based organisations (SBOs) to support divisions and address state level issues, divisions have now come together to form the ADGP at the national level.

How we are Governed

On 1 June 1998 the ADGP was formally constituted as a company limited by guarantee. ADGP is owned by and represents all Divisions of General Practice. This is reflected by the composition of the ADGP Board. Divisions in each state appoint two Directors, one urban and one rural. The ACT and Northern Territory each appoint one Director, one urban and one rural respectively. This ensures that rural and urban divisions have equal representation.

*ADGP Directors are practicing
General Practitioners and have
practical hands-on experience
in their local divisions.*