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## **Providing solutions pays \$346m dividend for divisions**

Last night's Federal Budget directly allocated \$346.3m into the Divisions of General Practice Network proving organisations that not only identify problems but provide solutions are key players in the future of health care in Australia.

The Divisions Network is made up of 119 individual divisions of general practice and eight state-based organisations, covering the entire country.

The Network's core focus is to promote the health and wellbeing of Australians by working with GPs and other health service providers to improve the quality and accessibility of health care at a local level.

The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) (the Network's national body) Chair Dr Tony Hobbs said the funding has been welcomed by the Network and will improve the Australian communities access to quality health care.

"The Divisions Network last night received three years of core funding totalling \$243.3m. The budget also delivered \$92.9m to the Network for improved health services for aged care residents and \$10.1m to improve rural access to mental health services.

"This funding will allow the Divisions Network to continue delivering services and programs in a range of areas such as immunisation, mental health, aged and palliative care, chronic disease, information management and IT, practice nursing and Indigenous health," Dr Hobbs said.

The Divisions Network has also been funded to purchase or provide lifestyle modification programs for patients with diabetes.

In addition to this funding a further \$12.7m has been allocated for the extension of the Australian Primary Care Collaboratives which will continue to make inroads into the better management of chronic disease by GPs with divisions playing a key role supporting practices.

AGPN CEO Kate Carnell said general practice is the front door to the health system and the budget tackles a number of the most fundamental problems in health that general practice sees every day.

"Our key messages to Government are clear and have been heard. Primary health care teams and innovative local solutions are the key to addressing some of the most profound issues facing our health system.

"AGPN and the Network look forward to working with the government to ensure these measures make a real difference to communities." Ms Carnell said.

**For more information please phone AGPN CEO Kate Carnell 0415 662 266**