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Budget Response

Divisions deliver for aged care

An extra \$92.9m worth of funding for aged care announced in tonight's Federal Budget is another victory for the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN). The funding follows the success of the 2004 Aged Care GP Panels Initiative aimed to improve GP access to aged care facilities (ACF).

The extra funding to the initiative delivered by the 119 divisions of general practice will now allow for allied health workers such as dietitians, physiotherapists and dentists better services to residents of ACF.

AGPN Chair Dr Tony Hobbs said the Network has proved itself as supporting the delivery of improved GP services to Australians living in ACF, and now it will demonstrate it can do the same for better allied health services.

"This funding will see people living in ACF receive a team-based approach to their care. It is great news for residents and for health professionals.

"The expansion to the program is a testament to the outcomes achieved by all those working on the 299 aged care panels that exist right across Australia", Dr Hobbs said.

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