

Face to Face Board Meeting 20th May 2007

The AGPN Board met in Canberra on 20th May for a full face to face Board meeting. As well as the regular agenda items, the following issues were discussed in depth.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: MODEL OF GOVERNANCE FOR AGPN

Discussion focused on Network feedback to the consultation paper on the Model of Governance for AGPN. The feedback indicated a divergence of views expressed by members as to the best model of governance to take the organisation into the future. A number of further questions and points of clarification were raised by members as a result of the consultation.

The Board will respond to the range of issues raised, including the need to better explain the rationale for change and provide more detail about how the board's proposed preferred model would operate. A particular priority will be strengthening communication channels with the Network to ensure Directors remain informed and responsive to members' needs.

As a way forward, AGPN will release a summary paper of the feedback to date, to form the basis for discussion at the national division's forum to be held in Hobart in November. This agenda item could provide an opportunity to better discuss the board's view, and to hear the arguments and proposals from members in a robust way. The Board welcomed the debate on this topic, and has scheduled this for discussion on Day One – CEO/ Chairs meeting at the forum.

The Board continues to believe that a representative model will not provide best practice governance and remains committed to a Board structure that reflects both contemporary primary health care as well as the skill sets required for good corporate governance.

FEEDBACK ON "FUNDING GENERAL PRACTICE BASED MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM CARE IN AUSTRALIA: A DISCUSSION PAPER"

The Board considered an analysis of network feedback on the discussion paper which aimed to generate discussion and debate on key concepts associated with the financing of team based approaches in general practice. Coordinated responses from four SBOs and a small number of direct responses from divisions were received.

Comments received highlighted some key principles around which a draft Position Statement will be framed as well as a number of issues that require further clarification. Responses also highlighted the need to clearly define the issues the Position Paper is responding to, the solutions proposed and the guiding principles and rationale for the directions being suggested.

The Board agreed that further consultation is required and noted the importance of finalising this work in order to set the scene at the 2007 Forum. A draft Position Paper will be circulated for further comment using the steps outlined in AGPN's policy on policy development.

FEDERAL BUDGET 2007-2008

The Board noted that the Budget was favourable for the network and included a number of measures that will be implemented via divisions. These include expansion of the Aged Care Panels, additional investment in the Australian Primary Care Collaboratives program, the pre diabetes program initiative and mental health drought measures. These measures were a direct result of an AGPN submission to government. The Board is disappointed that the Government continues to neglect some key issues such as obesity and general practice infrastructure.

GENERAL PRACTICE REPRESENTATIVE GROUP

While AGPN is committed to supporting the National Primary Health Care Partnership, there is also solid commitment to reconvening the GPRG. AGPN Chair Dr Tony Hobbs has invited all GP groups to a meeting of the GPRG on 5 June 2007 to focus on key issues that would benefit from a united GP voice in the pre-election period such as general practice infrastructure, indigenous and refugee health and workforce shortages.

DRAFT AGPN STRATEGIC PLAN

A draft strategic plan 2007-2011 was discussed by the board following the board's Planning Day held on 25 February. Discussion focused on the interface between AGPN's own strategic plan and the strategic direction for the network to be developed at the workshop for CEOs and Chairs on 28 June. Once finalised the AGPN Strategic Plan will become a core component of the organisation's direction and will help drive the way the organisation is structured and the priorities we address. The inclusion of key result areas such as 'national leadership and advocacy' and 'membership support' will ensure AGPN is responsive to priorities set at the June meeting. The Board stressed the importance of Network participation in the planning day, particularly at Chair and CEO level.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board supported two new areas of work for the organisation. These included submitting a proposal to government in partnership with *beyondblue* and the University of Queensland for national implementation of Every Family, successfully trialled in three Queensland divisions. Following a meeting between Chairs, AGPN and NACCHO will be working to renew the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations and take forward a joint program of work.