

4 April 2003

Secretary  
Diabetes Group

Dear

**Re: Consumer Health Network**

We are inviting you or a representative of your organisation to join our Consumer Health Network. Membership of the Consumer Health Network is open to organisations who represent the interests and concerns of health consumers and interested community members in the West Vic Region. The creation of this Network presents an exciting opportunity for us to involve you in the Division's planning and direction.

The West Vic Division of General Practice is a Commonwealth funded organisation that provides support to doctors (GPs) and their medical practices. The West Vic Division assists our GP membership in towns from Beaufort to the South Australian Border including Ararat, Stawell, Maryborough, Casterton, Coleraine, Horsham, Birchip and Rainbow.

I have enclosed a brochure containing information about the Consumer Health Network for your consideration.

The Network would work on an information sharing basis. The time commitment for your organisation would not be great and no costs are involved. You will be sent Newsletters every 2 months to keep you informed on Division activities and from time to time we would invite your views on certain issues. Twice a year you may be invited to attend 2 hour group meetings, however you are free to decline if you so wish (your time attending these meetings will be reimbursed).

We value our Consumer Health Network because:

- Users of services provide valuable insight into issues relating to general practice, based on their experience of the health care system;
- It is important to find out what the community needs and wants in a health care system, in order to plan successful and appropriate services.

Kindly discuss this opportunity with your organisation. ***I am very happy to speak with you at any time if you wish to discuss your group's involvement, please phone me on 53524804.***

If your organisation would like to accept our invitation to participate in the Consumer Health Network, kindly post your response back on the sheet attached (a reply paid envelope is provided).

We look forward to your involvement.

Annette Metcalfe  
West Vic Division of General Practice  
a.metcalfe@westvicdiv.asn.au