



## **Top End Division of General Practice**

### **What is the Division of General Practice?**

The Top End Division of General Practice (TEDGP) is a part of a national network of organizations developed to support General Practice. Divisions of General Practice exist in all parts of Australia. The area covered is geographical and the total area covered by the Top End Division is approximately 509,900 square kilometres (Darwin region is 132,700 sq kms, Katherine region is 332,900 sq kms and East Arnhem region is 44,400 sq kms).

There is an equivalent organization in Central Australia called the Central Australian Division of Primary Health Care (CADPHC).

There is also a separate Territory wide organization of which both TEDGP and CADPHC are members.

### **Who funds the Division?**

The Federal Government funds the basic operations of Divisions, however Divisions can also seek and receive funding and grants through a range of other avenues for special projects. These funding grants are most often focused on matters that are of particular concern or relevance to the population they represent.

### **What does the Division do?**

The Division provides a range of services to GPs and other members of the Primary Health Care team (such as: pharmacists, practice nurses and professionals allied to health). These services may include providing continuing education opportunities, orientation and family support to new GPs to the area, networking opportunities, information technology support, information on the best use of medicines, information on clinical practice, partnerships with allied health providers, community groups and other health services. The Division is also involved in a wide range of special projects that assist General Practice, for example, the production of a Tropical Health Manual.

### **What it is the role of consumers in the Division?**

The Division has stated a commitment to the involvement of consumers in its activities and this is demonstrated by the continued funding of the CRG. Consumers provide valuable feedback on Division direction and have been involved in the annual strategic planning exercise.

There are members of the CRG on the Division's Board of Management. This allows consumers the opportunity to directly shape the direction of Division activities. Consumers can bring the concerns and perspectives of "real people" to the Division and its work.

### **What the Division is not.**

Divisions are not professional associations (such as the Australian Medical Association).

The Division is not a GP training organizations (such as the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and other associated training bodies), although they do have funds to provide education opportunities as Continuing Medical Education for GPs.

Divisions do not operate to receive complaints about GPs and health services. This is handled by the Health Care Complaints Commission.

### **Where is the TEDGP?**

The Top End Division of General Practice is located in the city at 5 Shepherd Street, Darwin and has a staff of approximately 15. You can contact the Division on phone 08 89821000 or fax 08 89815899 or email [office@tedgp.asn.au](mailto:office@tedgp.asn.au).