



SBO-AGPN COALITION COMMUNIQUE

Meeting 14-15 June 2007

The AGPN-SBO Coalition, a strategic group comprising the Chairs and CEOs of the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) and the State Based Organisations (SBOs), met in Canberra on the 14-15 June 2007.

Key items discussed include:

1. National Primary Care Collaboratives Program

The group spent considerable time brainstorming the Network's competitive advantage and role in the future Collaboratives program. AGPN will work with the Coalition and a group of currently involved divisions in the development of the tender submission. The tender is expected to be released by the Department of Health and Ageing in the coming months. Partnerships with other organisations to enhance the Network's bid were seen as essential, as was promoting national coverage and sustainability.

2. E-Health

The ever expanding e-Health agenda and the role of the Network as an enabler of connectivity in general practice were discussed. The coalition identified that current innovation across the Network requires harnessing. The coalition agreed to implement a national e-Health workshop to be held in August of this year. The workshop would enable all divisions involved in driving e-Health reform through general practice an opportunity to workshop and share ideas and strategies. More details on this workshop will be developed over the coming weeks.

3. Models of division support to general practice

The coalition identified the increasing role of practice support officers/general practice liaison officers as a model for the delivery of services by divisions to practices. The group agreed to explore current work practices in divisions, evaluations and benchmark these practices across states as a possible model for use across the Network.

4. Strategic Direction for the Network

Clarification on the coming strategic directions workshop for the Network on 28 June 2007 was identified. The key outcome of the workshop is to identify the strategic direction and top 3-5 priorities for the Network as a whole for the 2008-2011 funding period. This will be identified early in the day's agenda, as well as through SBO workshops and discussions with their state members.

5. Departmental meetings

Discussions were also held with senior members of the central office of the Department of Health and Ageing. Major issues discussed were the upcoming Multi Program Agreement (MPA) negotiations with the Network, the roll out of the ABHI program in light of the 2007 diabetes budget initiatives, and the role of the Network in e-Health. The department was encouraged by the Network's lead on a number of key issues, including the role of the Network as the delivery and implementation arm of the Collaboratives program.

The group also received a briefing from senior officials of the Department of Human Services on the Easy Claims initiative, and the options available for general practice.

In addition to the above discussions, the coalition agreed that Indigenous health would stay on the agenda as an ongoing piece of work.