



# News Release

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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## GP Red Tape relief welcomed

Australia's peak body representing the Divisions of General Practice has welcomed the announcement by Health & Ageing Minister Tony Abbott to implement recommendations of the Red Tape Taskforce.

Chair of the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) Dr Rob Walters said that GP groups and members of the Red Tape Taskforce had worked hard over the past 14 months to find ways to reduce the burden of unnecessary red tape on GPs, as recognised in the Productivity Commission Review into general practice administrative and compliance costs.

"We were hoping to see something in this Budget that reflected the agreement reached between the Government and the GP groups on reducing red tape last November, so we are very relieved to have received Minister Abbott's letter today," said Dr Walters.

"The PIP and EPC programs, together with the new allied health and dental items in MedicarePlus, support GPs to deliver structured, comprehensive and multidisciplinary care for their patients.

"The problem has been with the time and complexity of complying with the assortment of different requirements for the items, particularly when there has been a lack of support for electronic management of patient and referral information," he said.

"GPs using these programs will be pleased that the various payment tiers and items will now be streamlined, along with simplification of registration requirements."

Dr Walters said that introduction of a simplified chronic disease management item was something that GP groups had also recommended, to better reflect actual GP practice in managing patients with chronic disease.

"A general chronic disease management item will remove some of the artificial barriers that are set up by funding only a few specific chronic diseases.

"Our concern, however, is that with all these changes, and the new items coming on line, Divisions will be required to provide additional support for general practices as well as other health professionals. We call on the Government to provide funding to ensure that educational support is available," said Dr Walters.

"We look forward to continuing to work with the Government on ways to further simplify and streamline these programs, and particularly to find ways that Divisions can be better resourced to support their implementation."

*The Divisions of General Practice Network links 95 per cent of GPs across Australia in a national structure that supports general practice and improves community access to primary care. This Network is the key to integrating general practice with other sectors of the health system, both government and non-government, to deliver high quality care to the Australian community.*

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