



News Release

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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'Divisions Excel' says PHCRIS review

The findings of the 2002-2003 Annual survey of Divisions of General Practice is an affirmation of the success of Australia's national Divisions Network, says the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP), the peak body representing Divisions.

ADGP Chair Dr Rob Walters said that the report, "Divisions: a matter of balance" clearly showed the achievement of Divisions in improving the delivery of primary care.

"This glowing report of the progress of Divisions of General Practice is an affirmation of the Network's success in delivering better health care and of the commitment of its members to creating a better health system for Australia," said Dr Walters.

"The report identifies the strengths of Divisions in their diversity, but also supports their achievements in key areas of primary care delivery, such as immunisation, mental health care and diabetes, with more than 95 per cent of Divisions involved in these areas.

"The integration of primary care at a local level is what Divisions are about," he said.

"The report has found that during 2002-3, 94 Divisions engaged with allied health services to improve patient access to 15 different allied health professions. This is particularly significant, given that only 66 Divisions are separately funded under the More Allied Health Services (MAHS) program.

Other key findings in the report include the integral role Divisions play in providing workforce support and making GP services more accessible through recruitment of GPs and involvement in after-hours and locum services.

"Also, the role of Divisions in supporting information management in general practice is critical," says Dr Walters.

"The report showed there was an increase of 10 per cent in the number of Divisions involved in age/sex disease registers and/or recall systems. Thirty six Divisions were providing aggregated population health data to other health services or their area health service."

Dr Walters said that the report, released in late May 2004, was a useful planning tool for Divisions.

"It demonstrates that Divisions nationally are ready for a stronger role in targeted regional resource management," he said.

"It's time for the profession to take the blinkers off and have the debate about these alternative ways of delivering health care and then to engage with government regarding specific projects.

"We look forward to continuing our work with local communities and the Federal Government on ways to further build on the excellent achievements of Divisions to date," said Dr Walters

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.

For comment:

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