



News Release

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Broadband access will improve information management in general practice

The peak body representing the Divisions of General Practice says the Federal Government's decision to provide broadband access to the 6500 general practices in Australia will enhance patient care for all Australians.

Chair of the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) Dr Rob Walters has applauded the move, which will support GPs to upgrade their information management systems.

"This initiative provides the opportunity for real time communication that will allow the exchange of electronic patient health information, the direct transfer of pathology results and electronic referrals," he said.

"ADGP and the Divisions have argued for a number of years that better information management and information technology support in general practice is vital to assist GPs to better manage health information and deliver quality patient care.

"We congratulate Health Minister Tony Abbott for heeding the advice that effective information technology and information management systems are essential to the delivery of health care in the new millennium.

"It will help general practices to work smarter and more effectively, freeing up GPs to spend more time with their patients. It will also encourage GPs to use new information networking programs such as HealthConnect for the benefit of their patients.

"Whilst this support for GPs is most welcome, the role of Divisions of General Practice will be critical to providing the necessary support for general practices that receive an ADSL broadband connection, to ensure this new technology is implemented and used efficiently.

"If we want a world-class health system, we must continue to support general practice by addressing the education, training and practice capacity building of our GP teams," Dr Walters said.

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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