

Dr Hilary J. Fine

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I have accepted the ADGP nomination from two Divisions as I believe I have the passion, persistence and plausibility to represent W.A.

My background in General Practice spans almost twenty years. I started my own practice in East Fremantle in 1993 and have, what I now consider, a Q.B.E.M.B.A. (Qualified By Experience MBA). My involvement with Divisions began in 1994. My third child was three months old and as I eased back into the workforce I realised the importance of supportive general practice. In the early days of Divisions they provided a local support network – a role which is still fundamental to their success. Perhaps that's why my focus has remained on the needs of grass roots General Practice? It gives me the stamina to sustain my enthusiasm in all the varied tasks I tackle as a mother, GP and Divisional representative. I am rarely short of energy!

At Fremantle GP Network I was a member of the Continuing Medical Education Committee for two years, a member of the Consumer Reference Group, a Director on the Board (including Vice Chairperson) for six years and currently Chairperson. My roles have included being a GP Advisor for National Prescribing Service and GP Wellness plus conducting a Needs analysis of GP members. Facilitating groups and presenting extensively is a challenge I embrace.

As a Board member I have undertaken considerable formal training in Corporate Governance with an emphasis on the role of the Chairperson. My team experience includes extensive work in strategic and business planning and a strong bias towards accountable financial management. Communication skills are fundamental to the process. I have taught this at University Lecturer level and consider that I have built up strong links in W.A. using these skills. Listening is a number one priority in order to represent GPs honestly.

The platform from which I ask the support of the WA Divisions is as follows:

1. In recognising the diversity of GP Divisions in WA, I promote this as a State asset to Australian Divisions of GP. We have remote, rural, outer and inner urban Divisions. We have very large and very small divisions which cover a vast array of geographical square kilometres. Such a variety of size, needs, numbers and experiences needs to be highlighted positively and not used to fragment our achievements.
2. I believe firmly in the Vision for Divisions to include a Primary Healthcare Framework. In further defining the roles of divisions within the Primary Healthcare system, I see the way forward will be their inclusion in a Primary Health Care Policy for Australia.
3. Helping to shape the future structure of the Network.

The broad strategies I would use towards achieving these goals include the following:

- A unification of our State's Divisions. I would work towards ways to utilise the uniqueness of geographical and member number variation and strengthen our common ties rather than concentrate on the divides. Such a process requires trust and the highest of ethical principles. It requires collaboration of work in progress and improved communication of this Australia wide. It is a challenge I would embrace.
- By demonstrating to our current and future funders that Divisions are poised to run complex co-ordinated primary care programmes. We need to move on from short term pilot projects with unsustainable long term funding. I gained much knowledge on the work study tour to New Zealand in this area and a detailed understanding of the priority areas for Divisions and General practice.
- Australian Divisions are GPs and staff with the expertise to translate this into a Primary Health Care Policy for Australia. Western Australia has a unique perspective which needs strong representation. I believe we need to co-ordinate this Nationally and with other GP representative bodies.
- Using our recent experiences as a State, I will emphasise accountability and transparency as a number one priority to the Australian Divisional Network structure. I believe we have all learnt much in the past months and that those actively involved in the process can bring this expertise to ADGP with confidence.

I look forward to your support in representing the State on this journey.

I am happy to be contacted on my mobile (0418615134) to discuss this in more detail.