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# News Release

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

Sunday September 26, 2004

## GP Divisions win on after hours and youth health

The Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) has welcomed measures announced by the Prime Minister to improve after-hours GP services and a pledge by the Shadow Health Minister for a national youth health program.

ADGP Chair Dr Rob Walters said today's announcement by Mr Howard to invest in extending after-hours general practice services is a positive move.

"The increase of \$10 to the patient rebate will help to make after-hours GP care more accessible and encourage GPs to continue offering this service to their patients," Dr Walters said.

"We are also pleased that the announcement includes ongoing funding for existing services and recognises the importance of Divisions of General Practice and local GPs in the development of new after-hours services.

"We must ensure that all new operations are established in consultation with existing general practice services, Divisions and GPs on the ground. They must be targeted to work effectively to meet local needs."

In another major win for Divisions, Ms Gillard yesterday pledged \$3.8 million to fund an expanded National Divisions Youth Alliance program through Divisions of General Practice, if the ALP wins government next month.

Ms Gillard made the commitment at the launch of a youth health agenda at the national Divisions of General Practice Forum in Adelaide.

Ms Gillard pledged to fund a national co-ordination role at ADGP, a national roll-out of training in adolescent health for primary care teams, and capacity for Divisions to fund innovative programs.

The youth launch, by Trish Worth, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, included the introduction of a youth-friendly web site and the announcement of an expanded national program, MindMatters Plus GP, designed to better connect young people with mental health services.

Dr Walters said: "Every day GPs deal with young people with complex problems, and worried parents seeking advice about their teenagers' health and wellbeing".

"To deal effectively with these issues, it is important that the GP is supported by a multidisciplinary team," he said.

"That is why mental health and youth health have been flagship programs for Divisions of General Practice and why we need continued and serious investment in these areas."

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