



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Call for expanded general practice nurse role

The Australian Divisions of General Practice is calling for additional Government-driven incentives to promote and expand the role of general practice nurses.

By introducing measures to boost and support the general practice nurse role, such as further MBS item numbers, the Federal Government would be making a sound investment in the robustness and sustainability of Australian primary health care, ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said.

“The existing item numbers for services provided by practice nurses on behalf of GPs – in areas such as immunisation, wound care, and Pap smears – are already playing a crucial role in strengthening general practice capabilities, Ms Carnell said.

“It is simply a matter of ‘value-added’ general practice.”

Dr Rob Walters, ADGP Chair, said existing MBS item numbers for general practice nurses had been well-received by GPs.

“GPs are increasingly seeing the benefits in bolstering the capabilities of nurses who work with them in their practices at the frontline of health care. Primary health care is about promoting and supporting the health of Australians, and general practice nurses have a crucial role to play in doing just that.

“ADGP hopes that in next week’s budget the Federal Government will recognise that supporting a wider role for practice nurses, through specific mechanisms such as a wide range of MBS item numbers, will result in a range of positive health outcomes for Australian communities.”

For additional comment or information call Dr Rob Walters, 0418 127 123, or Jane Castles, 02 6228 0822 / 0412 392 577.

ADGP represents 120 Divisions of General Practice organisations located throughout Australia, which support general practitioners and their practice teams. Through its network, ADGP promotes the health of all Australians by supporting and strengthening the nation’s primary health care sector.