



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

28 July 2005

Investment in primary health-care research will bring dividends

Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) says the Australian Government's commitment of funding for primary health-care research, announced this week, will result in health dividends in the future.

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said the Government's investment demonstrated that it recognised the vital importance of primary health care within the wider health sector, and the key role research played in developing innovative and effective primary health-care strategies.

"Research in this area is fundamentally important, as it allows for the development of high-quality primary health care policy and practice. Best-practice primary care has significant flow-on benefits: by improving patient health outcomes it can greatly reduce the pressure on other areas of the health system," Ms Carnell said.

"But it is crucial that this research is solution-driven and involves input from the coal-face of general practice. The Government and universities should be working with the Divisions Network to ensure mechanisms to guarantee research findings do not get stuck in 'the lab', so to speak, but result in real improvements in practice," Ms Carnell said.

"For research to produce benefits on the ground in Australian communities there has to be an equal investment in implementation and in fostering effective links between researchers and health practitioners."

Ms Carnell said applied research in this area was particularly important in promoting better health outcomes for patients with chronic or complex conditions.

"Seven out of 10 GP consultations are for chronic disease, so we welcome investment in research which can promote high-quality primary care that results in more effective prevention and management of chronic disease in general practice.

"Chronic disease will become a growing social and economic burden for Australia unless we foster preventative approaches, and primary health care research will help do that."

For more information please call Jane Castles, ADGP National Communications Coordinator, on 02 6228 0822 or 0412 392 577.

WHAT IS ADGP?

- ADGP is the peak body representing 119 Divisions of General Practice and eight State-based organisations (SBOs) around Australia. The Divisions Network supports general practice and their practice teams and drives the implementation of innovative health strategies.
- ADGP, through the Divisions Network, works to integrate general practice with other sectors of the health system, both government and non-government, to deliver high quality care to the Australian community.
- ADGP is committed to promoting the health of all Australians by supporting the role of Divisions in the nation's primary health care system.



Telephone 02 6228 0800

Facsimile 02 6228 0899

Email adgpreception@adgp.com.au

25 National Circuit Forrest ACT 2603

PO Box 4308 Manuka ACT 2603

ABN 95 082 812 146

www.adgp.com.au