



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

15th September 2005

NEW DIVISIONS FOR WESTERN SYDNEY

A report released today entitled “Structural Review of Divisions of General Practice in Western Sydney” has recommended the establishment of a new Division in Western Sydney auspiced by local regional training provider, WentWest, and the expansion of the current Hawkesbury Division to become the new Hawkesbury Hills Division.

Consultants WalterTurnbull were commissioned by ADGP (Australian Divisions of General Practice) and ANSWD (Alliance of NSW Divisions) to:

- Identify alternative options available for a future Divisions structure to service the needs of Western Sydney;
- Test identified options against key criteria for structural efficiency as detailed in the Future Directions Toolkit;
- Develop a business case that explores the viability of the identified options.

A number of principles were developed against which to access options. These included:

- Achieving improved health outcomes for the Western Sydney community;
- Providing effective support to General Practice and general practitioners in Western Sydney;

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.



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- Strengthening General Practice to deliver effective primary health care in Western Sydney;
- Strengthening the overall Divisions Network;
- Enabling the Divisions Network in Western Sydney and surrounding areas to respond to population growth in Western Sydney;
- Enabling efficient and effective program management and delivery through Divisions of General Practice in Western Sydney;
- Facilitating effective governance of Divisions;
- Could be implemented readily and practicably.

The report identifies and evaluates four possible alternatives for structural/administrative change which were assessed against identified principles.

After carrying out this process, the consultants recommended that the “Two Divisions Option” be implemented immediately. This would entail:

- The establishment of a Division, comprising the Hills District of the former Western Sydney Division and the Hawkesbury Division; and
- the establishment of a new Division, auspiced by WentWest, comprising the Auburn, Parramatta, Holroyd, Blacktown and Mt. Druitt districts of the former Western Sydney Division.

WentWest is recommended to auspice the new Western Sydney Division because:

- WentWest has an excellent understanding of the area and its health needs, is General Practice focused and well connected with GPs, health service providers and the community in the region and has the respect of GPs in the area;
- WentWest, following negotiations with DoHA, could facilitate a speedy re-establishment of Divisional programs and services in this part of Western Sydney;
- It would significantly reduce the risk of the new Division being unable to engage GPs in this area, as WentWest has extensive linkages to, and an excellent reputation with, GPs in the area;
- WentWest is a well governed and well managed organisation with a strong governance-focused board and a management team with the capacity to enable the successful delivery of programs and services to general practice and general practitioners in this area;

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- It would be likely to strengthen the position of general practice in Western Sydney through the integration of Divisional and Regional Training Provider (RTP) functions and a significant capacity to speak with some authority on behalf of local General Practice.

The use of WentWest as an auspicing body for the new Western Sydney Division and the establishment of a new Division covering the Hawkesbury-Hills area has the support of the Alliance of New South Wales Divisions and the Australian Divisions of General Practice , GPET and the Boards of both WentWest and Hawkesbury Division.

CEO of ADGP Ms Kate Carnell said, “ For the implementation of the new Divisions to be successful it must be underpinned by open and transparent communication with GPs, staff and key external stakeholders. General practice engagement will be fundamental.”

Chairman of ANSWD, Dr Vlad Matic, said, “I think that this model really deserves a go. For it to achieve its potential, clear and strong leadership of the process from the Boards and CEOs/EOs of the organisations will be essential”

David Bruce, CEO of ANSW, said “While the Alliance is happy to provide whatever help and support is necessary to ensure that these new Divisions are successful, local leadership will be very important.”

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