



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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ADGP welcomes moves by the Government to make Medicare claiming easier

ADGP welcomes the announcement that the government wants to make it more convenient for GPs and patients to utilise electronic payment technology.

Dr Rob Walters, Chairman of ADGP said that "With today's advanced technology, GPs shouldn't have to bill patients and wait for 'pay doctor cheques' to arrive (and in many cases not arrive) nor should their sick patients have to go and line up at Medicare offices for reimbursement. A system that cuts paperwork and red tape for both general practitioners and patients has to save tax payers' money and improve service delivery."

ADGP believes that the most efficient and cost effective system for general practice has to be based on current industry trends for electronic direct deposits and funds transfer. The technology now exists so that patient verification and service delivery is synchronised and allows payments for service delivery to occur directly after its provision.

Dr Walters stated that "the current options for reimbursement are bewildering to GPs and the simpler and easier it is for the patient and GP is a step in the right direction.

"ADGP also believes that the application of full electronic funds transfer has additional benefits – the full cost of the consultation is transparent to the patient, it will engage general practice in the national information management agenda and, over time, it will provide significant savings in the claiming network."

Dr Walters said that such a system is consistent with and supports the Broadband for Health initiative and HealthConnect programs.

ADGP looks forward to working with the government to progress this initiative.

**For more information please call
Rob Walters, ADGP Chairman on 0418 127 123 or
Kate Carnell, ADGP Chief Executive Officer, on 0415 662 266.**

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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