



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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A National Divisions Network approach to E-health reform

Australian Divisions of General Practice today welcomed the announcement of

1. A National "private" internet system (VPN) that will allow authorised GPs, practice staff, or Division network staff to access the network and view information within their delegation.
2. The appointment of skilled health informatics professionals to work through our state-based organisations (SBO's), to lead the understanding and implementation of national intranet deployed programs within the divisions.
3. A data aggregation tool to assist GPs and divisions in the collection and review of National Performance Indicator information as mandated by the *Future Directions Policy*. This software system will provide simple procedures for GPs to extract and examine their practice indicators and provide its further secure carriage in a de-identified form.

These initiatives mobilise general practice as a platform to meet the challenges of the dynamic national e-health agenda. Underpinning this decision is a number of objectives that support the delivery of:

- A robust and sustainable health system in Australia with a strong focus on primary health care and the integral role of general practice within the system.
- Divisions of general practice improving health care provision through support of information management and information and communication technologies (IM & ICT).
- A national approach to the collection, aggregation and dissemination of primary health care information that provides a robust platform to meet primary health care planning and consistency in raising the bar for general practice quality and efficiency of service.
- Better management of information in promoting improved clinical, patient and practice outcomes.
- A national quality performance system in a consistent and cost effective manner to drive continuous improvement across the entire Divisions network.

"This announcement paves the wave for GPs to have a say in information management agendas and gives a national voice in the participation of initiatives such as HealthConnect and *Future Directions*," Dr Walters, Chair ADGP said.

"These initiatives will open many opportunities for general practice and divisions including the roll out of exciting projects such as the Practice Health Atlas.

"Gaining IM support for divisions as been a real priority for me and I am so pleased that this has been achieved during my term as Chair."

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