



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Promoting community health and wellbeing through primary health care teams ADGP Federal Budget Submission 2006-07

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson, said today that the 2006-07 Federal Budget is time for some fundamental shifts in direction in health policy.

"Australia's health policy climate is one of change and of opportunity to build a better system if we get some key investments right," Dr Thomson said.

"ADGP's submission to the 2006-07 Federal Budget is not a shopping list. We have put forward genuine and practical suggestions to support general practice deliver comprehensive, effective care in conjunction with allied health colleagues.

"We need to reorient our health system towards wellness by building on the early successes of the Lifestyle Prescriptions Program and introducing a preventive health check item number that involves practice nurses.

"Extending practice nurse incentives to all practices in Australia will increase consumer access to primary care services.

"We know that multidisciplinary care gets results in terms of health outcomes as well as professional satisfaction. But we need to overcome the many structural and systemic barriers to team based care.

"There are many practical steps that can be taken to promote team-based care. Our submission calls for a new scheme to support practice amalgamation, co-location and expansion and measures to build on allied health arrangements under Medicare Plus.

"Better investments in mental health and Indigenous health delivered in the primary health care setting will help to erode the health inequities so long associated with these issues"

"Intervention in the early years is also vital if we are to reduce the pressures on the specialist system. ADGP is supporting a national roll-out of the highly successful *Every Family* initiative"

"We look forward to the Government's serious consideration of our submission" Dr Thomson said.

The ADGP's Federal Budget Submission 2006-07 is available on the ADGP website at www.adgp.com.au.

For more information please call 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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