



# NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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## National Youth Mental Health Foundation Initiative

The Australian Divisions of General Practice is a member of the consortium selected by the Australian Government to establish the National Youth Mental Health Foundation.

The consortium, led by the Orygen Research Centre and the University of Melbourne and other core members, the Brain and Mind Institute and the Australian Psychological Society will be supported with Commonwealth funding of \$54million over 4 years to establish the foundation.

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said "The Australian Government's leadership in the area of youth mental health is to be applauded.

"In making this announcement, the Government has recognised the importance of taking care of our teenagers and young adults. Mental health and related substance use disorders affecting young Australians is one of our most pressing health and social problems."

"We are delighted to be part of this consortium", Ms Carnell said. "These organisations deliver high quality services, research, training and community awareness programs.

"ADGP has expertise in change management in general practice, driving and implementing primary mental health care reform, building primary mental health care capacity and can engage the majority of grass roots GP practices."

ADGP and its Divisions Network has relationships with other members of the primary care team such as practice nurses and allied health professionals and has been the principal infrastructure through which recent primary mental health care reforms have been implemented, most notably the Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care and MindMatters Initiatives.

Through its network, ADGP provides access to a unique regional health infrastructure that links general practice with the wider health system and has a proven capability in planning and delivering primary health care services at the local and regional level.

Ms Carnell said, "We are looking forward to working with the group to improve the health outcomes of young people with mental health problems.

"We know that many young people simply do not access the care they need. But we do know that when they do seek help, GPs are often their health professional of choice.

"ADGP believes that multi-disciplinary primary mental health care teams, with GPs as essential members, should be the main access point for population health initiatives, community development activities and clinical encounters.

"This new initiative, is a fantastic result and will create real improvements in mental health services for all young Australians."

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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