



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

22 December 2005

FLU PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS – A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

GPs, general practice and Divisions of General Practice are a vital part of the flu pandemic preparedness framework and as such, ADGP welcomes recent announcements and activities by the Australian Government to boost its flu pandemic preparedness strategy.

These include additional expenditure on antivirals, additional expenditure on personal protective equipment, the strengthening of surveillance networks and the formation of a new Office of Health Protection.

ADGP also welcomes efforts by state and territory jurisdictions to include general practice and Divisions of General Practice in their flu preparedness plans and in discussions to date with their relevant division state based organisations.

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said that “Not only is the integral role of general practice and Divisions of General Practice being recognised by all levels of government, it was also reassuring for general practice that the Australian Government has made provision in the National Medical Stockpile for the free issue of masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment for the daily use of GPs and general practice staff over a period of several months.”

At the recent Flu Pandemic Primary Care Forum held in Melbourne, ADGP was invited to give a key note address. The address by ADGP CEO Kate Carnell, strongly reinforced the role of Divisions of General Practice in both Australian and State and Territory government flu pandemic preparedness plans.

Kate Carnell said “The important message that came out of this Forum was the sense of collaboration between the primary care groups present, not just representing the interests of GPs but also practice nurses, the nursing profession more generally and other health professionals.

“Due to the gravity of a full blown flu pandemic, we need to think outside the square – for instance, apart from the existing primary health care workforce, there are considerable numbers of health care professionals in the community who are no longer practising in their chosen profession for reasons such as retirement or the pursuit of different careers, who could be utilised with minimal re-training to bolster the primary health care workforce. Such health care professionals include GPs, nurses and allied health professionals.”

It is expected that the Australian Government's flu pandemic plan for primary health care will be finalised over the next 6 months. ADGP will be at the table on behalf of its member Divisions of General Practice and state based organisations.

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.



Telephone 02 6228 0800

Facsimile 02 6228 0899

Email adgpreception@adgp.com.au

25 National Circuit Forrest ACT 2603

PO Box 4308 Manuka ACT 2603

ABN 95 082 812 146

www.adgp.com.au