



Australian Divisions of **General Practice**

The fortnightly e-newsletter of the Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

# ADGP News

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## CEO'S REPORT – FROM KATE CARNELL

Welcome to another year and our first edition of ADGP News. I am sure that 2006 will be as productive and useful as 2005. We will be looking to keep the momentum going in 2006 and achieve the successes we did last year. I hope to be able to continue my visits to the Divisions to meet staff and broaden my understanding of how the divisions work and what you need ADGP to do for you.

Early this year our focus will be on setting the directions for the organisation. A board planning day is set for 17 February. We will continue to build on the position statement. Other priorities include the budget submission, the COAG Agenda, the Productivity Commission Report, strengthening the NACCHO MoU and looking for new opportunities for the Divisions. We will also be working on a new communications strategy and lifting the profile of the Network.

### Divisions Network Executive Leadership and Management Program

I am pleased to announce that ADGP in partnership with UNE Partnerships, are proud to launch our first intake of the Divisions Network Executive Leadership and Management program. You can find out more about this executive program in this addition of ADGP News including incentives for the first group of CEOs and emerging leaders choosing to complete this course as part of their own professional development 2006 or go to [www.adgp.com.au](http://www.adgp.com.au)

This program is based on active learning principles, which means the program, as well as being based on the activities and business of Divisions, will provide solid examples and assessments based on real, everyday Divisional work. A Steering Committee consisting of members of the Network has been working with the UNE team to develop the program for the first group of CEOs and emerging leaders electing to do this course which begins in April with the first of two, five day residentials, which for this intake, will run from Sydney. I recommend we all have a look at the course as something to add to our own skills base, and to provide an opportunity for ongoing professional development.

### Review Implementation Committee

The Review Implementation Committee and its working parties have been busy over the last few months. A number of key documents and implementation strategies have been released that will impact on the work of Divisions.

Firstly, RIC has released its 11<sup>th</sup> Communiqué – a result of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005. this can be found on ADGP's website at: <http://www.adgp.com.au>

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## CEO Report continued

The funding allocated to the Performance and Development pool was discussed, amended and subsequently guidelines released by the Department prior to Christmas. Two funding pools are available – Pool A for projects up to \$100,000; and Pool B which are smaller projects of up to \$10,000. Projects should be sustainable post funding and Pool A projects must demonstrate replicability across the Network. Applications for both Pools A and B must be completed via the template provided and be forwarded by mail to the Department by Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

In addition, the Department has released a number of key documents relating to the national performance indicators and the six month report also due in February 2006. A number of common questions are being asked by Divisions, and the Department have developed a further FAQ relating to the soon to be due reporting, and the NQPS/ performance indicators.

The RIC said good-bye to Rob Walters as the ADGP representative, with Jenny Thomson taking Rob's place at the next meeting.

This can be found on the ADGP's website at: <http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=4434>

## DIVISIONS NETWORK EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

*"In my time as a senior manager with a number of medium enterprise organisations, I have had the opportunity to participate in ongoing executive education. The type of practical, active learning that is core to the Divisions Network's Executive Leadership and Management Program has assisted me in a number of senior positions. This course includes the skills I need to manage my Division better, and to strive for excellence. I challenge all CEOs as leaders in the Network to review this program - with incentives in the first year, its definitely something I would participate in for my own professional development - and to work with CEOs from Divisions across Australia - its Networking and learning at its best!"*

**Brenton Chappell, CEO Adelaide Hills Division of General Practice, Chair, Divisions Executive Network, SA**

The Divisions Network Executive Leadership and Management Program has been designed by the Network for the Network, with solid academic rigour.

ADGP, working with Network members and the University of New England Partnerships program, has designed this course to be based on real-life Divisional business. The program specifically targets senior levels of Division Management, ie; CEOs or emerging leaders and runs over a ten month period, with two, five day residentials – for 2006, the five day residentials will be run from Sydney NSW, and the first intake (April 2006) will include a number of incentives to early registrants.

### **The course**

The course itself, with successful completion, will matriculate to an Advanced Diploma of Business Management, which is the equivalent of three units of credit into the University of New England's 12 unit Masters of Business Administration. The course is based on on-line learning (distance delivery) over a 10 month period, with two, five day residentials.

### **Assessment and Delivery**

Delivery is via distance education with the two, five day residentials per 10 month period. Participants will receive full distance education materials (print and CD-rom) and access to on-line support via a team of experts. In addition, ADGP will also be compiling a list of potential mentors for participants to assist with the implementation of the learning tools as a result of the course.

Participants will work in small study teams at the five day residentials, utilising these teams as 'study groups' (linking electronically) when progressing work-place related assessments. A mixture of group and individual project will form the assessments.

### **The Content**

This program has been designed with the Divisions Network, so has been focused to the needs of Divisional CEOs. As such, the program will equip the participant with enhanced skills in effectively managing the strategic directions of the organisation. Increasing skills in areas such as leadership, financial management and comprehensive business operations are core. Underlying this, is the focus on the unique operating environment of the Divisions Network, such as working collaboratively with partners, and with government at various levels.

More information on the learning modules can be found on the ADGP website at: <http://www.adgp.com.au>

#### **Who should register?**

CEOs and emerging leaders in the Divisions. Assessments will be practically based, and involve implementing new skills into everyday decision making.

#### **Fees**

Full course Fee - \$4800

#### **Incentives**

Incentives will be available for the first intake (April 2006 in Sydney) and have been provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Incentives are available (on successful registration and application to ADGP) for both course fees **and** travel/accommodation for those participants from the Divisions Network residing outside a 200 km radius of Sydney, NSW. Guidelines and documentation for both incentive pools can be accessed from ADGP's website at: [www.adgp.com.au](http://www.adgp.com.au)

#### **When is it running?**

For 2006, there will be two intakes:

1. April 2006, Sydney (Coogee Stamford Plaza)  
3-7 April & 10-14 July\*
2. June 2006, Sydney (Coogee Stamford Plaza)  
5-9 June & 18-22 September

\*see incentives above

#### **For more information**

Or contact Liesel Wett at ADGP on [lwett@adgp.com.au](mailto:lwett@adgp.com.au) or Ph: 02 6228 0800

## RIC UPDATE

The Review Implementation Committee met for the 11<sup>th</sup> time in early December 2005, with a number of key issues currently being discussed, debated and implemented.

Of key importance were discussions relating to the Data strategy – a consultant has been engaged to develop a strategic direction framework for the Strategy. LMC Consulting consultant Liz McCarthy has begun consultations within the Network and will continue to consult for some time.

Data collection, and the use of the information available for the 6 monthly report has been sent to all Divisions this week – with the Department also developing a FAQ relating to common questions being received relating to the report.

The FAQs can be found on ADGP's website at <http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=4434>

RIC also discussed the Performance and Development pool, with guidelines for Divisions and SBOs released prior to Christmas. Two funding pools have been identified:

- Pool A – funding up to \$100,000. Projects must have the potential for replication across the Network, and sustainable post funding. Applications close (via the proforma developed) to the Department by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006.
- Pool B – local capacity building projects, funding up to \$10,000. Applications close (again via the proforma developed) to the Department by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

All projects should focus on key areas identified in the Government's Response to the review of the Divisions Network, that is;

- Access
- Integration and multidisciplinary care
- Supporting GPs and general practices
- Prevention and early intervention
- Chronic disease
- Quality and evidence based care
- Consumer focus

- Workforce
- Other key areas identified for funding include:
- Governance
- Using population health information
- Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander health
- Program evaluation.

The RIC also agreed to support the Divisions Network's Executive Leadership and Management program for CEOs and emerging leaders in the Network, and a series of national workshops and communications, to be further developed by the ADGP-SBO Coalition.

Discussion also focused on structural efficiency, and the use of statistical local areas (SLAs) for funding for the Network into the future – something to be addressed by the Structural Efficiency Working Group. In the mean time, aligning the Network to census collection districts (smaller/ building blocks of SLAs) for ease of data access for Divisions was discussed. Changes would be minimal to the Network/ (eg; only small potential changes in funding etc.) but would allow for ease of access to data versus the current postcode method currently employed. This will be explored into the future.

The Funding Formula working group have a proposed funding model which will be tested for impact assessment early in the new year. The group will review this work, and larger consultation with the Network will be forthcoming, once this work has been completed.

The three active working groups of the RIC have agreed to pool their activities and focus via a meeting of Chairs. This group outlined the overlap and impacts of the working parties on the activities of all RIC reforms, and have agreed to meet into the future to ensure strategies are aligned.

Finally, Dr Rob Walters as the outgoing Chair was thanked for his efforts at what was his last RIC meeting. Dr Jenny Thomson, as ADGP Chair, will fill the role of ADGP representative at future RIC meetings.

## NEWS FROM THE NETWORK AND PROGRAMS

### Pandemic Influenza

As avian influenza and the threat of pandemic influenza continue to create headlines, ADGP will endeavour to keep the Divisions network informed of activity in this area at the national level. This topic will be a regular feature of future issues of ADGP News.

ADGP has established a contact point at ADGP for the Divisions network to field questions/issues for resolution. Please direct such enquiries to [melliott@adgp.com.au](mailto:melliott@adgp.com.au) and ADGP will attempt to resolve such matters as quickly as possible.

Some recent activity:

#### **Operation Eleusis**

This exercise, held in late November 2005, simulated an outbreak of avian influenza and evaluated the industry and government's national capability to manage a zoonotic disease outbreak. For media release on Exercise Eleusis visit <http://www.daff.gov.au/eleusis> (under 'Newsroom').

#### **Pandemic Influenza Primary Care Forum**

This Forum was held in Melbourne on 13 December 2005 and was the first time that representatives of the primary care sector, government and other parts of the health system formally met. The aims of the Forum were:

- to provide information to the primary care sector about pandemic planning
- identify key issues and areas of concern;
- allow interaction and development of linkages between different parts of the primary care sector.

ADGP was invited to give a key note address "Pandemic planning and perspectives from Divisions of General Practice". Some of the key messages delivered:

- general practice (GPs, practice nurses, other practice staff) offer a key health workforce resource and must be confident of their role in responding to a civil emergency;

- general practice must have a reasonable level of preparedness in place and that all staff are trained in infection control and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE);
- divisions can: engage their local communities; train general practice staff in infection control protocols/vaccine handling/use of PPE/quarantine arrangements; develop appropriate referral protocols and links; organise after hours clinics and adequate staffing arrangements for general practice; promote a coordinated and consistent general practice response; offer a logistical conduit for information and resources to general practice and vice versa; support other areas of the health system.

Some of the points raised:

- the role of GPs, nurses and Divisions in a flu pandemic needs to be clearly enunciated and agreed at both Federal and State/Territory levels;
- the Australian Government is stockpiling several months supply of PPE equipment for general practice;
- the need to be able to contact GPs quickly and to have specific communication strategies in place;
- possibly greatest role for primary health care providers is tending to well/unwell people in the home;
- the planning process developed for a flu pandemic will be generally useful for a variety of disaster situations that GPs may face.

The National Influenza Pandemic Advisory Committee (NIPAC) Primary Care Working Group, of which ADGP is a member, will continue progress on the issues identified for resolution at the Forum.

ADGP issued a media release on 23 December 2005 on the Forum – visit <http://www.adgp.com.au> under Hot Issues.

#### **Level of pandemic threat**

Australia level '0' - *No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection or disease is not present in animals in Australia.*

Overseas level '3' - *Human infections(s) with a new subtype overseas, but no human- to- human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact.*

#### **Some useful websites**

<http://www.health.gov.au> select 'p' and search for pandemic influenza

<http://www.avianinfluenza.com.au>

<http://www.who.int>

#### **Immunisation Kit: A practical guide to effective vaccine management**

ADGP will launch its national Division resource, "*Immunisation Kit: A practical guide to effective vaccine management*," in early 2006.

The Kit was funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing following an agreed need for information consistency and promotion of quality practice principles and will be available to Divisions and SBOs both in hard copy as well as electronically from our website. The Kit is the result of local, state and national Divisional input in partnership with State and Commonwealth government agencies, and provides Divisions with a nationally consistent level of immunisation information that supports Australian GPs and Practice Nurses with best practice immunisation service delivery.

This resource is divided into a number of key sections such as vaccine management and electronic reports, and highlights the key areas of focus for the National Immunisation Program. A summary of these sections can be found on the ADGP website [http://www.adgp.com.au/client\\_images/33960.doc](http://www.adgp.com.au/client_images/33960.doc). We envisage that this resource will support the high level of quality improvement and accreditation work already taking place in Divisions and assist Australian General Practice maintain and build on its internationally recognised excellence in immunisation service delivery and population health outcomes.

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### ✚ 2006 Australian General Practice Network Forum

The 2006 Forum will be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Broadbeach Queensland from 25-28 November 2006.

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### ✚ Mindbodylife Wellness Clinics

A partnership between ADGP and Eli Lilly Australia, has resulted in 26 Divisions being supported to roll out Mindbodylife Wellness clinics during 2006. Mindbodylife Wellness clinics provide a structured management program for people whose mental illness and medication are having an impact on their overall wellbeing. The program addresses physical and mental factors associated with serious mental illness, such as weight management, a sedentary lifestyle, demotivation and low self esteem, in a weekly group forum where people learn about nutrition, exercise and lifestyle changes. The program links well and value adds to existing Divisional programs such as Better Outcomes, shared care mental health initiatives, Lifescripts and Practice Nurse programs. GPs are able to refer patients to the clinics as part of the overall patient management plan to improve the health and quality of life of people with severe mental illness. A pilot Wellness clinic was conducted by Adelaide Northern Division of General Practice from September to December 2005 which resulted in positive outcomes for patients referred into the program by their GPs or via the Division's mental health programs. All participants reported feeling healthier, drinking more water, doing exercise more regularly and an improved diet as a result of being in the program. For a full list of Divisions that will be running Mindbodylife clinics in 2006 please visit: <http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=375>

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### ✚ Interactive Templates now available for Lifescripts

ADGP has developed interactive templates for each of the Lifescripts risk factors. Templates are now available in the Lifescripts Resource Library on ADGP's Lifescripts website at <http://www.adgp.com.au> Change the category to 'Lifescripts Templates' in the drop down list to view all the templates and the instructions for downloading them. The templates can be imported into the letter writer facility in Medical Director.

The electronic templates are based on the hard copy Lifescripts resources developed by the Lifescripts Consortium and published by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

For further information please contact Megan Hansford on [mhansford@adgp.com.au](mailto:mhansford@adgp.com.au)

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### ✚ New Medicare Item for Nurses to Provide Antenatal Checks in Rural Areas

ADGP welcomes the announcement this week from the Commonwealth Government that it will introduce a new Medicare item to fund antenatal checks by nurses, midwives and registered Aboriginal Health Workers in rural and remote Australia, on behalf of a GP or specialist.

Details of this new Medicare Item have yet to be developed and the Government has indicated that it will be working in consultation with the professional groups to develop these details over the next six months.

ADGP will participate in the consultation process and will provide further advice to divisions as information becomes available.

### ✚ National Practice Nurse Workforce Survey

Many thanks to those divisions who have returned responses to the ADGP National Practice Nurse Survey – we have a response rate of over 80% across divisions to date. For those divisions still holding survey results, waiting on responses from practices, or continuing to receive completed returns the final cut off date for receipt of information by ADGP is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January to enable the data to be entered and analysis to begin. It is hoped to have the survey report available in February 2006.

### ✚ New CEO for Adelaide, Central and Eastern Division of General Practice

Mr Nicholas (Nick) Prescott as CEO of the Adelaide, Central and Eastern Division of General Practice will commence on Monday, 6 February 2006. Nick has previously held a number of senior executive and board appointments and most recently successfully performed the role of General Manager of Wakefield Orthopaedic Clinic. Nick comes with an enthusiasm for working with GPs, our staff and our stakeholders to achieve positive health outcomes for our community. He also brings a wealth of financial, human resource and corporate governance experience.

We welcome him as leader of the team and encourage you all to meet him at your earliest convenience.

Dr Cathy Sanders, on behalf of the ACE Board.

## USEFUL INFORMATION FROM BEYOND THE NETWORK

### ✚ Early Resupply Rules for Repeat Supplies of Some PBS Medicines (FED)

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Tony Abbott, announced that from 1 January 2006, certain repeat medicines dispensed within 20 days of the previous supply under the 'immediate supply' provision will fall outside the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme safety net. This means that, when repeat prescriptions are filled within 20 days of the previous supply, the cost of the medicines will not count towards the safety net threshold and the medicine will not be available at a reduced co-payment if the safety-net threshold has been reached.

## POSITIONS VACANT

### ✚ Chief Executive Officer

The Limestone Coast Division of General Practice is a membership based not for profit support agency for General Practitioners and services the towns and surrounding regions of Bordertown, Keith, Naracoorte, Kingston, Robe, Millicent, Penola and Mount Gambier, with a population of approximately 64,000.

The Division invites applications from a highly motivated person with strong management and strategic skills, who leads by example with well developed interpersonal skills. They must have an empathy with General Practice and a commitment to the delivery of primary health care in the community.

The person and position description is available from our website <http://www.sesadgp.org.au> or by phoning Robyn Wyld at the Division on 08 8733 0160.

To apply, forward a written application addressing all selection criteria, including resume and details of 3 referees to:

Robyn Wyld  
Administration Manager Limestone Coast Division of General Practice  
Box 921  
MILLICENT SA 5280  
Email: [rwyl@sesadgp.org.au](mailto:rwyl@sesadgp.org.au)

Applications to be received no later than COB Friday 3 February 2006.

## CONFERENCES AND COURSES

### ✚ Chronic Pain: The invisible epidemic

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006**

#### **Rural Health Education Foundation LIVE National Satellite TV Broadcast**

The nature and management of chronic pain differs from acute pain, and it is important that that any approach takes a management focus rather than a curative focus - there is no 'cure' for chronic pain. Rather, an educative process combined with movement therapy is preferred.

Stigma, anxiety and depression add to the issues of chronic pain experienced by an individual. Equally, for the family of a chronic pain sufferer the experience can be all consuming. This program will explore these issues and examine the management approach to chronic pain.

Program information can be found by clicking <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/601/601.html>

Contact: Rural Health Education Foundation via email [rhef@rhef.com.au](mailto:rhef@rhef.com.au) or telephone (02) 6232-5480.

### ✚ "Evidence-based disease management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century"

#### **The Australian Disease Management Association (ADMA) 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Conference**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 at

Crown Promenade Hotel, Melbourne

#### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

*The focus of the conference is on programs/services which have demonstrated outcomes in disease management, self-management, population health management, behaviour change, remote monitoring, technology and health coaching for people with chronic disease.*

*Other presentations will include evaluation methodology, cost effectiveness and cost benefit analyses as well as presentations from international experts.*

ADMA invite disease management services and other relevant parties to submit abstracts for consideration for oral presentation or poster sessions.

Abstracts should be submitted via e-mail to [aca@alfred.org.au](mailto:aca@alfred.org.au) by 5pm EST Tuesday 30 May, 2006. Abstracts should have a maximum of 400 words and include the title, authors, a concise summary of the presentation, contact details of the presenter, organisation, and indicate preference for consideration as oral presentation or poster.

For more information contact Kaylene on (03) 9276 3535 or at [K.Fiddes@alfred.org.au](mailto:K.Fiddes@alfred.org.au)

## CONTACT THE EDITOR

Information in this newsletter is for the use and benefit of all members of SBOs and Divisions, so please pass it on, and recycle the whole, or parts, of this publication to your members with due acknowledgement to ADGP.

If SBOs, Divisions and other readers have information for, or comments on, *ADGP News* please contact Sue Aiesi on 02 6228 0816 or e-mail [saiesi@adgp.com.au](mailto:saiesi@adgp.com.au).

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