



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Depression does not discriminate

The Australian Division of General Practice admires Western Australian Premier, The Hon Dr Geoff Gallop, for his courage in disclosing that his battle with depression is the cause for the announcement of his early resignation today.

One in five Australians will be diagnosed with depression at some time during their life.

Premier Gallops' announcement again highlights the fact that depression is a series illness which does not discriminate. Neither education, social status nor financial security can protect individuals from this illness.

It is hoped that Premier Gallops' honest disclosure will encourage other Australians to seek early help.

Research indicates that general practitioners are the professional of choice for those individuals seeking help for depression and through programs such as the *Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care*, GPs have undertaken high quality accredited education and training to more quickly diagnose and treat mental illness.

Through *Better Outcomes* GPs across Australia are supported by their local Division of General Practice to provide coordinated care and referral to allied health professionals for psychological therapies.

As Premier Gallop's doctors have advised, with appropriate treatment, time and rest, this illness is very curable. People can go back to leading a productive, fulfilling life.

Early diagnosis and professional treatment is the key.

The support of family and friends is also crucial in maintaining motivation and hope during recovery.

ADGP wishes Premier Gallop a speedy and full recovery.

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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