



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Increase in medical school places welcomed but new models of working required

The Australian Divisions of General Practice welcomed the COAG announcement today that the government will provide 25% more Commonwealth places for medical students in a bid to address the national shortage of doctors.

Kate Carnell, ADGP CEO said "More doctors alone however, is not the solution to the workforce crisis that Australia faces. There are already more doctors in Australia than several years ago but still the system is struggling.

"What is required are new models of working, with an emphasis on a robust primary care sector, general practice and multidisciplinary teams where GPs work closely with allied health.

"Solutions that ensure that doctors and allied health workers go to the areas where they are needed, and are supported and retained within their profession are also vital."

These views were reflected in ADGP's submission to the Productivity Commission late last year. ADGP's Position Statement on Primary Health Care also covers these issues and outlines the many ways in which Divisions of General Practice already work locally to address these dilemmas and support the health workforce within Australia.

ADGP CEO Ms Kate Carnell added "Divisions already have practice nurse programs, hold funds for More Allied Health Service assistance in rural areas and assist general practice in utilising allied health MBS item numbers for the management of chronic and complex disease.

"ADGP welcomes the opportunity to work with government to build on these initiatives to address the fundamental workforce issues within the health system."

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