



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

29 March 2006

ADGP calls for national immunisation strategy

The Australian Divisions of General Practice welcomes figures released this month by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare that reported the largest single area of Commonwealth support to the states and territories is in organised immunisation.

Dr Jenny Thomson, ADGP Chair, said "Such spending is vital and to be commended, but there also remains a strong need for investment in a national strategy to further coordinate local, state and national immunisation efforts".

A 2005 reportⁱ released by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases found that the National Immunisation Program had produced the highest ever childhood vaccination rates, and Australia's national average immunisation rate is currently in line with all leading OECD countries.

Dr Thomson said that "General practice now provides over 70% of these immunisations, and has experienced significant achievement and improvements over the last 9 years because of Commonwealth, state and territory immunisation support and coordinated local delivery.

"Previous reviews of the General Practice Immunisation Scheme have shown that the national, state and local divisional coordination roles had been essential to the success of the scheme in improving immunisation coverage –particularly at the level of local supportⁱⁱ.

"It is vital that such support should be a part of an ongoing national strategy."

Further information: Liesel Wett, ADGP Deputy CEO, tel. 61 2 6228 0839

ⁱ National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases (NCIRS). *Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Vaccination Coverage in Australia 2001-2002*,

ⁱⁱ KPMG, *Evaluation of the General Practice Immunisation Incentives scheme*, Nov 2000 pgs. iii & iv.

