



# NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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## ADGP welcomes appointments to Youth Mental Health Foundation Advisory Board

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said, "In appointing such high profile Australians to the Youth Mental Health Foundation (YMHF) Advisory Board, the Government has recognised the importance of supporting our teenagers and young adults with mental health issues. Mental health and related substance use disorders affecting young Australians is one of our most pressing health and social problems.

"The Advisory Board, chaired by Mr Ryan Stokes will provide advice to the Executive Committee to the Youth Mental Health Foundation on a range of issues and will increase community awareness of youth mental health and drug and alcohol issues. Their skills and expertise and their links to the community are vital components in ensuring the Foundation's messages reach the broader community.

The Youth Mental Health Foundation led by the Orygen Research Centre and the University of Melbourne and other core members, the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP), the Brain and Mind Institute and the Australian Psychological Society will be supported with Commonwealth funding of \$54million over 4 years to establish the foundation.

The Foundation's Executive Committee membership is Professor Patrick McGorry (Chair), Professor Lyn Littlefield, Professor Ian Hickie and Ms Kate Carnell.

Prof Patrick McGorry, a renowned leader in the field of youth mental health and the Executive Director of the lead agency, ORYGEN Youth Health and ORYGEN Research Centre has made an enormous contribution to service delivery, research and national and international service reform in the area of early psychosis and youth mental health for over 15 years.

Prof Lyn Littlefield, a psychologist and current Executive Director of the Australian Psychologist Association plays a major role in working with government-related bodies and the health sector to provide input to initiatives of relevance to psychology and to enhance its contribution to Australian society. She is currently an adjunct Professor of Psychology at La Trobe University, and was previously an academic and Head of the School of Psychological Science at this institution from 1985 to 1997.

Prof Ian Hickie, Executive Director of the Brain and Mind Research Institute brings to the Foundation a wealth of experience in research, community awareness, service provider education and training and mental health service reform.

ADGP has a wealth of experience in building primary mental health care capacity with the Divisions of General Practice Network and for advising the Australian Government on primary mental health care policy and implementation.

"The skills of the new YMHF Advisory Board will complement those of the Foundation Executive Committee and provide an exciting team to take the Youth Mental Health Foundation forward" Ms Carnell said.

For more information please call Kate Carnell, ADGP Chief Executive Officer, on 0415 662 266.



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