



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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ADGP welcomes government announcement to proceed with access card system

ADGP welcomes the announcement by the Prime Minister that the Government has decided to proceed in principle with a new access card for health and welfare services. This new Smartcard will enable people to obtain Government benefits in a convenient and reliable way without having to re-register and repeat the same information each time they visit a health professional.

Kate Carnell, CEO Australian Divisions of General Practice said that “with the introduction of this technology patients will see immediate benefits such as reducing the replication of core details that health professionals use and need in improving health outcomes of their patients.

“Whilst \$3 billion over 10 years could be saved from health and welfare fraud, the real benefit of the card is the option to voluntarily store other information such as emergency contact details, allergies, health alerts, chronic illnesses, immunisation information and organ donor status.

“With an increasing emphasis on the use of multidisciplinary team care arrangements in health care, the need for multiple providers to access accurate and timely health information about their patients is vital.

“And this information will save lives in emergency situations where details of importance are unable to be verbally given to the treating health provider thereby improving the quality of patient outcomes.

“It is a win-win for all Australians.”

Important information that is contained on the cards includes additional security features such as a digital photograph and this will enhance and improve the cardholder’s proof of identity and reducing the opportunities for fraud.

This will mean that the subsidies available under Medicare programs are directed to the correct person, ensuring that the eligible patients receive the right payment for the service that they are seeking.

Kate Carnell said “ADGP believes the card could be used to support the reform of Medicare billing and payments and could be a major catalyst to wider usage and uptake of electronic health systems in general practice.

“ADGP also believes that there would be additional benefits in bank account details could be stored voluntarily on the chip allowing direct reimbursement to the patient from Medicare or other government services. This would reduce errors and make claiming much easier – particularly for those people who find it difficult to get to Medicare offices”

ADGP supports this implementation of the Smartcard and congratulates the Government for taking this initiative that ADGP has been asking for some time.

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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