



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

THE NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP IS ESTABLISHED

COMMUNIQUE

A broad cross section of health professionals and consumers involved in the delivery of primary health services met for the first time today in Canberra. Participants agreed to form a new group called the National Primary Health Care Partnership in order to provide a strong united national voice for primary health care.

The group acknowledged that the health system is facing many unprecedented challenges – changing patterns of disease, an ageing population and workforce shortages.

The Partnership agreed that the solution to the future viability of the Australian health system is a robust primary health care system. A well integrated primary health care system has been shown to improve health outcomes and keep people out of hospital.

The Partnership agreed that multidisciplinary teams need to be at the centre of care.

The Partnership comprises the key professionals that make up multidisciplinary primary health care teams and consumers.

The Partnership's diversity is unique and will provide a vital and effective new forum to discuss and advance primary health care issues across disciplines and geographic regions.

The Partnership will also be available to the Australian governments as a forum for consultation and advice.

The Partnership mutually agreed that the conditions are ripe for change in the Australian health system.

The importance of innovative multidisciplinary team based models of care is a key priority for the Council of Australian Governments and will be a focus of the Partnership.

The Partnership is comprised of the following organisations:

The Australian Divisions of General Practice
The Australian Pharmacy Guild
Optometrists Association Australia
Australian Physiotherapy Association
Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health Inc
The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia
Audiology Australia
The Australian Psychological Society Ltd
Dieticians Association of Australia
Royal College of Nursing Australia
Australian Practice Nurses Association
Consumer's Health Forum of Australia
Australian Health Professionals Australia
The Australian Dental Association
The Australian Podiatry Association

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