



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

16 May 2006

Preventing Diabetes is critical for the health of Australians

A new report by the International Diabetes Institute has shown 275 Australians are developing diabetes each day with almost one million people living with diabetes in Australia. With 600 Australians progressing from being overweight to obese each day this is an epidemic must be addressed urgently.

"We know that lifestyle risk factors such as overweight and obesity, poor nutrition and inadequate physical activity are driving the diabetes epidemic. What is most alarming is that these lifestyle risk factors are preventable" said Ms Kate Carnell, CEO, ADGP.

The International Diabetes Institute study found that people who are obese were 4 times more likely to develop diabetes than those with normal weight. With 62% of men and 45% of women in Australia who are overweight or obese we need specific strategies to address the complexity of obesity.

"Obesity is a complex condition that requires a multidisciplinary approach to patient care. We urge the government to list obesity as a chronic condition so it can be managed under the Enhanced Primary Care Chronic Disease Management Medicare Items. This would allow GPs to refer patients to a dietician and an exercise physiologist as part of a team care arrangement" said Dr Jenny Thomson ADGP Chair.

"Preventing and managing chronic disease through our primary health care system is important to community wellness, social and economic participation and national productivity and is the key to keeping the lid on health system costs."

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