



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Australian Divisions of General Practice Celebrate National Palliative Care Week Sunday 21st May – Saturday 27th May 2006

The Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) in partnership with the Divisions Network, Palliative Care Australia and Carers Australia are celebrating National Palliative Care Week (NPCW) under the theme “Partners in Care”.

National Palliative Care Week is held each year across Australia to raise community awareness of palliative care and celebrate the achievements of those who work, paid and unpaid, in palliative care.

This year’s theme, *Partners in Care*, will provide an opportunity for improved care for those people who are living with a terminal illness for whom the primary treatment goal is quality of life. Importantly, palliative care provides much needed support and care for the families and carers of people living with a life limiting illness.

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said; “The theme Partners in Care highlights the team based approach that is fundamental to primary health care and has been shown to improve health outcomes, particularly those with chronic disease and life limiting -terminal illness.”

As part of the promoting health throughout life initiative in the recent Federal Budget, the Government has continued the nationally led program of activities that directly improves palliative care services for Australians with a terminal illness, and provides support for their family and carers. This initiative has maintained its continued funding, plus CPI (\$62.8 million) over four years.

In 2003 the Department of Health and Ageing engaged the Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd (ADGP) to manage the Rural Palliative Care (RPC) Program. The RPC Program is one of a number of initiatives designed to achieve the goals of the National Palliative Care Strategy.

ADGP will continue to coordinate a group of eight rural Divisions to implement local palliative care programs.

Dr Thomson said “The Rural Palliative Care program is designed to significantly improve access to quality, coordinated palliative care for people living in rural and remote communities For about a quarter of Australians, home is in small towns or isolated communities. Health care in rural and remote settings is provided by primary health carers who require appropriate support for their various specialised roles.”

The Rural Palliative Care Program covers an area of

- 1421802 square Kilometres
- area larger then the Northern Territory
- approximately 20% of Australia’s total land mass

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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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