



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Wealth and Health- It's Frightening

Links between health and wealth identified in a recent report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) are alarming according to the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP).

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said the report identifies groups that are most at risk of falling victim to long term chronic illness.

"The report found people from lower socio-economic backgrounds are more likely to smoke and be obese," Ms Carnell said.

"This reinforces the need to shift our focus to proactive health promotion activities that are built on health rather than illness.

The report found that people living in the most disadvantaged areas visited their GP more often than other Australians.

"General practice is the front door to primary health care in this country and the divisions have the capacity to implement community based projects using their invaluable local knowledge", Ms Carnell said

We welcome the COAG initiatives announced earlier this year. These initiatives will increase support for early intervention and self management and this in turn will greatly enhance the health and well being of Australians.

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said *Lifescrpts* is one example of how divisions are helping local communities and individuals at risk.

"*Lifescrpts* is an initiative allowing GPs and nurses to openly discuss lifestyle factors such as smoking and weight management. The program sets realistic goals with the tailored prescription encouraging progress reviews and referrals to healthy lifestyle providers.

"The *Lifescrpts* project shows how GPs can work with patients to address individual lifestyle factors that can improve health and well being of all Australians. Dr Thomson said

Comprehensive primary health care can make a real difference where it matters – at the local community level through access to wellness and prevention program and divisions of general practice are the platform to take primary health care forward.

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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