



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

July 4 2006

Partnership breaking the sick cycle

The second round of announcements for the *Healthy for Life* program, designed to break the Indigenous cycle of poor health has today been welcomed by the Australian Divisions of General Practice.

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said the program directly addresses chronic illness by allowing health services to improve the prevention, early detection and management of chronic diseases.

"The Federal Government's *Healthy for Life* program has identified a further 26 locations in addition to the 27 announced in early December.

"Last year the Queensland North and West Division taking in Longreach, Mt Isa and Townsville and the New South Wales South Eastern Divisions covering Moruya were two of the 27 recipients that received funding.

"They have both partnered with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make significant progress to the improvement of Indigenous health in their respective areas," Dr Thomson said.

Following consultation with the local Indigenous community, the South Eastern Division has identified the need for Indigenous elders and leaders to be trained to understand the importance of chronic disease prevention, encouraging the knowledge to flow through their Indigenous communities. They have together identified gaps in local primary health care services.

North & West Queensland Primary Health Care has begun sample mapping some of their Indigenous communities to identify areas where child and maternal care and subsequent chronic disease can be improved and brought up to best practice standards. They are planning to integrate the *Healthy for Life* program into their existing models of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a whole-of-community approach.

The New England Division of General Practice (Armidale) partnered with Armajun Aboriginal Medical Services and Armidale and District Services Incorporated as has been given funding this time round, as has the Sunshine Coast division in conjunction with the North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health.

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said the *Healthy for Life* program is a prime example of how the divisions network in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities can provide targeted and direct solutions to the health of communities and how divisions can work effectively with Indigenous medical providers.

"Our Divisions are on the ground, they know the problems and can be part of providing long-term solutions. This funding will assist in our most fundamental aim- to provide effective primary healthcare for all Australians by working with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) and other allied health professionals and services.

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