



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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COAG congratulated on common sense

Historical reforms to GP registration agreed on at today's COAG meeting have been welcomed by the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP).

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said it was about time Australia recognised the importance of national registration for general practitioners.

"General practice workforce shortages facing Australia are well known. National registration is a step in the right direction to remove red tape and make it far easier for GPs to provide their services nationally.

"Across the country there are many GPs who work on state borders making registration a tedious and expensive process - answering to two or more state medical boards and complying with their different policies," Dr Thomson said.

Dr Peter Nesbitt a GP based in Echuca, a town bordering Victoria and New South Wales knows first hand the difficulties dual registration causes.

Dr Peter Nesbitt works in a practice that operates two clinics across the Victoria /New South Wales border. He knows first hand the difficulties caused by dual state registration.

"The additional paperwork and expense associated with dual state registrations is extremely frustrating and burdensome.

"The process as it stands today restricts recruitment options when new GPs move to the area and have to comply with differing registration processes and bodies.

"It also significantly restricts the capacity of short term staff such as registrars and locums to provide after hours and nursing home care in this region, when registration is restrained to state boundaries," he said.

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell believes this is a fine example of how all levels of government can work together to provide better health care services to Australians and said this decision will have a significant impact, especially for GPs in Dr Nesbitt's geographical position.

"I commend the responsible state, territory and federal approach to this problematic issue. It is smart, joint decisions such as this that are needed to address the growing challenges facing Australian GPs," Ms Carnell said.

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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