



# NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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## AMA gets full support on GP hospital teamwork

Calls by the AMA to have GPs involved and informed of their patient's conditions and treatments, whilst in hospital have been fully supported by the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP).

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said the AMA's position on this makes perfect sense for effective and ongoing patient care. At the very least, GPs must be involved in the discharge of their patients to ensure they know what has happened and about any new or changed medication.

"ADGP see great potential and benefits to patients, the hospital system and GPs under this proposal.

"Once patients, particularly those in metropolitan areas, are admitted to hospital GPs are regularly kept out the loop. Sometimes patients die and their GP doesn't even know," Dr Thomson said

According Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care formerly the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care, in ten per cent of hospital admissions, something unintended happens to patients. Of these, one in five suffers serious harm and one in 30 die. Many of these problems could have been prevented with better information about the patient, particularly their medication.

These accidents are not solely related to incorrect medications but it is a known factor. GPs being involved with their patients would help reduce incorrect medicines being administered, as the GP is familiar with the patient's history.

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said it's time to put aside hospital politics and move forward with solutions that will benefit patients.

"Should this proposal be implemented, patients will be the clear winners. Being in hospital can be a traumatic time. Knowing your GP is involved provides extra stability and support for patients.

"Patients are currently being caught in the cost shifting game between State and Federal governments. The Federal government pays for GP consultations and the State picks up the bill in hospital. We need to focus on the patient, not the system, the provider, or even worse, who's paying," 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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