



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

A Booster for Australia's Immunisation Program.

Immunisation of Australia's children will be improved under a \$625,000 funding boost to general practice state-based organisations.

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said ADGP welcomed the increased funds and said Australian children will benefit from the boost.

"State-Based Organisations (SBOs) play an integral role in the co-ordination of immunisation schedules in their states. This funding will improve the flow-on of information and critical knowledge of immunisation programs. SBOs provide education, leadership and support to Divisions of General Practice in each jurisdiction. The Divisions in turn provide the same for all the General Practices. This network is vital for the delivery of immunisation in this country. "

"General Practices are responsible for providing the overwhelming majority of vaccinations across Australia" Dr Thompson said "and what this will mean is that the General Practice Network will be more efficient, provide more support and therefore better immunisation coverage."

"Ten years ago immunisation levels were between 50-60%, today in Australia they are up around 90%. In this time endemic measles has been eradicated."

"What this means is kids lives are being saved because of immunisation," Dr Thomson said.

ADGP Chair Kate Carnell said this funding comes after an extensive and informative campaign by ADGP to government.

"I am pleased Minister Abbott has listened to our ongoing calls for funds. Despite being pleased with today's funding announcement, I would like to reinforce to the Minister that we have 119 Divisions of General Practice across the country being supported by the SBOs and all desperately need funding."

"We need to make sure that all the Divisions are able to do the best job for the practices they support," Ms Carnell said. "We want an effective and efficient General Practice Network"

"Vaccination is critical to the ongoing health of our children and hence the ongoing health of our community." Ms Carnell said.

"ADGP is hopeful that all Divisions and SBO's will have benefited after the next round of General Practice Immunisations Incentives (GPII)."

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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