



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Divisions to delve into DOTARS funding dollars

The Australian Divisions of General Practice today welcomed Minister for Transport and Regional Services Warren Truss's announcement allowing divisions of general practice to access up to \$400,000 for rural medical infrastructure projects.

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said nearly 70 divisions would now have access to the program known as the *Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund* (RMIF).

"The divisions network covers the entire country. Many of these divisions include smaller rural settings that need access to infrastructure funding to maintain or create on-going medical services.

"I am delighted the divisions network now has access to these funds.

"RMIF will encourage divisions in rural and remote Australia to develop innovative solutions to help small communities access the medical services that their urban cousins take for granted," Dr Thomson said.

This Federal Government initiative allows the people on the ground to consider what infrastructure they need to help deliver primary health care services. There are many ways the funding can be spent including:

- building new allied health /aged care visiting rooms where none currently exists
- co-locating a clinic room for a visiting GP or allied health professional within existing community infrastructure such as a community hall.

"These are just two examples of how this funding can be used to bring medical services to the bush and I know divisions are very innovative," Dr Thomson said.

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said ADGP had long called for the divisions network to be able to access this program and urged divisions to consider their local areas as beneficiaries.

"I'd encourage all divisions that are eligible to take advantage of this funding and use local innovative ideas to help maintain or improve services for the long term.

"Minister Truss should also be congratulated for recognising and including services for allied health professional services under this program. Allowing these services to be considered divisions will be able to implement effective primary health care services in addition to general practice," Ms Carnell said.

Divisions that are eligible will be receiving an information kit from DOTARS and ADGP in the next two weeks outlining the processes and procedures required for a successful application.

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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