



Australian Divisions of **General Practice**

The fortnightly e-newsletter of the Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

ADGP News

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CEO'S REPORT – FROM KATE CARNELL

Effective Resource Management

The opportunity to improve the outcomes in the area of Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) has been a substantial focus over the last couple of weeks. Since 2001 more than 30 Divisions have been involved in the Enhanced Divisional Quality Use of Medicines (EDQUM). As this program comes to an end it is going through an evaluation and ADGP, working with six of the original divisions have proposed an alternative program that has been called Effective Resource Management (ERM).

ERM has the potential to significantly reduce the number of adverse drug incidents while at the same time reducing pressure on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. I have spent considerable effort over the last few weeks seeking support from the Department of Health and Ageing and explaining to other key stakeholders the projected benefits of ERM. Other stakeholders include Government MPs, the Opposition Health Shadow, the Consumer Health Forum, the AMA and the Pharmacy Guild.

Division visits

I have been doing a number of visits to the Divisions and must say I have very much enjoyed hearing about the excellent work being done in the divisions. It is exciting to know just how much divisions are interacting with their local communities and developing programs that target problems at the grass roots level.

Forum

I would also like to remind everyone to register for the Forum in November. It promises to be a stimulating few days with international and national speakers with expertise across a broad range of areas. To register on-line visit www.gpnetworkforum.com.au.

Other

The third edition of Dynamic Divisions will be out next week. This edition, healthy bodies, healthy minds showcases some excellent programs. I am always amazed when I read these stories just how active divisions are.

Divisions will be receiving some postcards and posters from us in the near future on Child Protection Week and I would ask that divisions distribute these as widely as possible. I think supporting NAPCAN, the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect is a good fit for the Divisions and strengthens our position as an organisation concerned with the health and wellbeing of all in the community.

What do Divisions do?

I am coming up for my second anniversary as CEO of ADGP and continue to be 'blown away' by the fantastic things that Divisions are doing. ADGP will publish our third edition of Dynamic Divisions next week which profiles another group of wonderful programs which are making a huge difference to the health of local communities.

The problem is that apart from the small number of projects highlighted in Dynamic Divisions, not too many people know what Divisions actually achieve. This includes our funders and major stakeholders. Obviously if we are to increase our funding and fulfil our significant potential this has to change. We need to raise the profile of the Divisions Network, highlight the wide range of programs and projects undertaken by Divisions and make government aware of the unique asset that exists in the Divisions Network. To achieve this, ADGP has a number of projects that we have instigated.

Firstly, we have started the process of putting together a comprehensive communication strategy. The first part of which was the email survey we sent out to divisions a couple of weeks ago.

Overall, the communications strategy aims to:

- unite the Divisions Network to identify a new brand with an agreed message
- equip the Network with the tools to communicate the Network's identity and direction and to ensure all of our stakeholders know exactly what the Network contributes to general practice and health outcomes in Australia
- start a national campaign to ensure all politicians know their local Divisions and all the smart things they do
- mobilise the Network to call for bi-partisan support for increased money for primary health care and for Divisions.

The whole strategy will be informed and refined by benchmarking and consultation in the first phase.

I will keep you informed and involved as this strategy develops, so please fill in the electronic survey I sent out.

Another part of the strategy is the national 'Value of the Network' study being done by Prof. Tony Scott and Dr Bill Coote from the Institute of Melbourne. This study will highlight the value that the Network adds to primary health care. The study is a major piece of research and will be important in ensuring that the Divisions Network has a strong future and is recognised as the provider of choice for primary health care program through general practice.

These are two elements of a broader approach that ADGP is developing to ensure that government, the community, GPs and other health professionals all know what we do and the great potential the Divisions Network has to improve the health of Australians.

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MEDIA SNAPSHOT

✚ Evidence-based prescribing a must Released 20/8/06

The Australian Medical Association's (AMA) calls today to have an evidence-based approach to prescribing medicine is fully supported and addressed in the Australian Division's of General Practice (ADGP) Effective Resource Management (ERM) proposal. ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said the AMA's example of patients in teaching hospital with heart conditions not being prescribed life-saving medication is concerning and reinforces the need for evidence-based prescribing methods.

For more information www.adgp.com.au/client_images/55061.pdf

✚ GPs well prepared to support patients tackle obesity Released 20/8/06

GPs are well prepared to deliver the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines for treating obesity, following calls for GP support made by Senator Guy Barnett on Wednesday. ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said through the divisions network, Australian GPs are well equipped and are already tackling Australia's largest growing epidemic.

For more information www.adgp.com.au/client_images/55060.pdf

✚ A Booster for Australia's Immunisation Program Released 17/8/06

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.

For more information www.adgp.com.au/client_images/54703.pdf

✚ Medicare queues a thing of the past Released 13/8/06

Wasting lunch hours lining up to claim back Medicare rebates will be a thing of the past under changes to the Commonwealth Government Medicare payment system that were announced today.

For more information www.adgp.com.au/client_images/53901.pdf

✚ Young fit, don't want to get sick Released 12/8/06

Marking International Youth Day (August 12), the Australian Divisions of General Practice have urged young people across Australia to find and visit their general practitioner.

For more information www.adgp.com.au/client_images/53900.pdf

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK AND PROGRAMS

✚ Leading the Way Program

Further to a section written under the CEO's Report in *ADGP News Volume 8 Number 6 dated 31 May 2006*, we are pleased to inform you that six Divisions and two SBOs have taken up the offer and invited Dr Jenny Thomson, ADGP Chair to visit and give a presentation on the future of the Network under the above Program, which was established through the RIC process.

If your Division is interested in having our Chair visit and give a Presentation, could you please get in touch with Trish Crimean, phone 02 6228 0818 or email tcrimean@adgp.com.au

✚ Proposal put to Medicines Australia

As a result of the significant adverse publicity surrounding pharmaceutical company sponsorship of drug education for doctors, ADGP sent a letter on the 11 August to Medicines Australia outlining a proposal for the divisions network to organise and facilitate medical education on behalf of pharmaceutical companies.

The focus of the proposal was on transparent governance, and to build on the principles outlined in Medicines Australia's 'Codes of Conduct'.

As not-for-profit organisations, our divisions are well placed to administer, facilitate and monitor training sessions provided to the medical profession (both GPs and specialists). The divisions network recognises the importance of ongoing training for medical practitioners and their staff. We also have existing relationships with the pharmaceutical industry.

ADGP is suggesting an approach that has the capability to include the following features:

- education events facilitated by divisions, while allowing for speakers arranged by pharmaceutical companies to present at sessions inside agreed parameters.
- A skilled facilitator employed by each division to:
 - organise events (these events to work to agreed protocols under the Medicine Australia code of conduct including the ACCC recommendations, if deemed appropriate)
 - develop training calendars and programs in response to educational needs assessments of medical practitioners and the requirements of pharmaceutical companies
 - invite medical practitioners
 - liaise with pharmaceutical companies on their requirements
 - organise functions, including appropriate catering and venue
 - organise an appropriate chairperson for the event where requested
 - provide agreed reports on costs and outcomes
 - arrange accreditation of all CPD events with appropriate medical Colleges
- a joint agreement between Medicines Australia and ADGP that sets out the parameters for the division-run pharmaceutical education for doctors
- responsibility for working with the divisions network to ensure high quality, transparent and ethical pharmaceutical education is made available to doctors on behalf of pharmaceutical companies, would rest with ADGP
- contracts with individual divisions (or state-based organisations), reflecting this overarching agreement, would be entered into by participating pharmaceutical companies.

At this preliminary stage these ideas are for consideration. However, in principle, ADGP believes that it is possible to apply an ethical, good governance model to the education of doctors about pharmaceuticals in a way that allows pharmaceutical companies to conduct their business effectively and transparently, while protecting the integrity of both parties.

We envisage further discussions with MA on this proposal.

The basis of this proposal is to build on skill sets that the Divisions already have and to produce a new income stream for the Network.

Divisions to delve into DOTARS funding dollars

There have been some recent changes to the Department of Transport and Regional Services Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund (RMIF) which have the potential to greatly benefit divisions.

The RMIF contributes to the cost of infrastructure for walk-in walk-out health and medical facilities in regional communities, making it easier for the community to recruit or retain the services of general practitioners and allied health professional services.

Prior to August 10 this year, only local government's were able to access these funds. Following extensive lobbying by ADGP, Minister Truss has announced divisions now have access to this resource.

Rural divisions that have a population below 10,000 are eligible for up to \$400,000. There are additional conditions that can be found on the DOTARS website www.dotars.gov.au which has a fact sheet on RMIF or call 1800 026 222. There is no special application form for the RMIF. The Regional Partnerships program application form is used or applications can be made online.

Below are a number of examples but are certainly not limited to:

- Extending the local RSL/CWA community hall facilities to accommodate GP visits on a regular basis.
- Building of new allied health/aged care consulting rooms in partnership with the community
- Outreach facilities in partnership with local indigenous community

ADGP strongly encourage you all to consider this opportunity and take advantage of the benefits it could add to your individual areas.

All eligible divisions will be receiving an information kit in the next two weeks

Medicare Australia – Audit of CDM items

Medicare Australia plans to conduct Australia wide audits of CDM care planning in early 2007 as part of its ongoing audit program.

This audit will improve the post implementation review of the CDM items by assessing compliance of GPs with the MBS requirements for the items.

It will also assist in education GPs (when required) about the appropriate use of the items.

A CDM items checklist is available on the DoHA website that GPs can use to help assess how well their CDM plans measure up to MBS requirements. Checklist is available at www.health.gov.au then follow the links to the A-Z index and go to C for Chronic Disease Management Medicare items.

✚ ADGP 2007 – 2008 Federal Budget Submission

It is hard to believe it is already time to start thinking about the recommendations ADGP would like to put to the Australian Government on behalf of the network for consideration in the 2007-2008 Federal Budget.

Departments and Ministers start the process of considering Budget bids in October. Like last year, ADGP wishes to make a well argued and compelling submission which meets the Government's health policy agenda and clearly puts the network forward as the primary care infrastructure through which programs can be delivered and solutions found.

ADGP is seeking ideas from the Network about key new national policies and initiatives that should be included in next year's submission. Please click on the link for the brochure http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?PageMode=indiv&module=NEWS&page_id=13377&filter=i Feedback is required by Monday 4 September. Thank you for your assistance.

✚ Primary Mental Health Care eBulletin

The Australian Divisions of General Practice's Mental Health Program quarterly Primary Mental Health Care eBulletin has been released. The eBulletin is designed to inform Divisions of General Practice, GPs, policy makers and other health and community stakeholders about developments in primary mental health care. July's eBulletin includes information from the COAG Mental Health Budget \$1.9billion over 5 years, the COAG meeting and National Health Plan 2006-2001 and the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. Click on the following link to download the eBulletin http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=376&PageMode=indiv&page_id=12788

✚ Guiding Principles for medication management in the community

On the 4 August 2006, Minister for Health Tony Abbott announced the release of the publication *Guiding principles for medication management in the community*. The publication was developed by the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council with support from the Commonwealth Government and is described by the Minister as an important reference for the management of medicines for people on complex medication regimes in their own homes. These Guiding Principles are targeted at paid health and community care service providers supporting older people to manage their medicines in their home and in the community. A copy of the media release is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abb112.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2006&mth=8>

To promote awareness and encourage implementation of the APAS *Guidelines for medication management in the community* a powerpoint presentation has been developed. Organisations are invited to adapt the presentation to suit their particular needs. Go to <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/apac-publications-guiding> for the presentation.

✚ Divisions Network Information Management Project

At the ADGP Forum in November 2005, Minister Bishop announced funding of up to \$7 Million over four years to support the implementation of the information management strategy. Key components include:

- Regional Health Information Management Officer (RHIMOs) across Australia, to support implementation and change in divisions
- a secure national 'network' for divisions, to support shared information and knowledge
- tools and resources to support secure collection and management of agreed practice and clinical information, to assist with national performance indicator reporting.

RHIMOs are being actively recruited in each state/territory. The majority of RHIMOs will be on board by the end of August 2006.

ADGP is currently undertaking a planning and feasibility study for the proposed divisions network information management system. Consultation is underway with the divisions network to identify the requirements of the proposed system. A discussion paper has been prepared to provide background information and identify requirements and options.

A steering committee has been set up to ensure the project aligns with the divisions network requirements. This committee has state and divisional representation.

Please contact the SBO in your state/territory for further information. Alternatively you can contact Jan McRobie, Project Manager National eHealth on 0434 676 845 or email jmcriebie@adgp.com.au

✚ Refugee Health Assessment and Immunisation Book

Brisbane South Division of General Practice has been awarded funding to print their "Refugee Health Assessment and Immunisation Book". The Mary Potter Foundation has kindly given its support to produce this beneficial tool for General Practitioners.

Dr Margaret Kay who works in the daily care of refugees explains "the tool, developed with input and feedback from both GPs and The QIRCH Clinic will be welcomed in the general practice arena as a cost-effective and practical way to assist in the care of this vulnerable group within our community.

The federal government has introduced an item number which is available for use by general practitioners for screening newly arrived refugees. The availability of a Health Assessment Book is an excellent resource as it will have the capacity to act as a guide for those practitioners who are not experienced in this area by prompting specific questions and investigations.

There is no doubt that the Health Assessment and Immunisation Book for Refugees has the capacity to help many people in a culturally appropriate way in addition to assisting general practice maintain collective information from others involved in the patients care.

Further information can be found on the Brisbane South Division of General Practice website at www.bsdbgpc.com.au or by phoning the Division on 07 3274 1886.

✚ Palliative Care Research Grants – Call for Expressions of Interest

The Palliative Care Research Program is a joint initiative between the National Health and Medical Research Council NHMRC and the Department of Health and Ageing. The program is part of the Australian Government's *Palliative Care in the Community* initiative.

Applications are invited for research projects that will inform one of the following four broad areas related to palliative care:

- symptom assessment and management in palliative care
- families and caregiver support
- psychosocial support, including bereavement and
- models of care in palliation particularly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in urban areas.

Proposals for projects of up to three years duration with total budgets of up to \$300,000 will be considered. A total of \$1.8 million will be available through this call for research.

Applications close 5.00pm AEST 6 September 2006. Further information and application documents are available from the NHMRC website at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/apply/granttype/strategic/index.htm>

Enquiries should be directed to Ms Deborah Lees on phone: 02 6217 9479 or by fax: 02 6217 9135 or email Deborah.lees@nhmrc.gov.au

✚ Australian General Practice Network Forum 2006

Online registrations are now open for those wanting to take advantage of the early bird special at this year's Australian General Practice Network Forum being held on the spectacular Gold Coast.

The theme of the 2006 Forum – *building healthy communities through partnerships* – is reflected in the program through the plenary and concurrent sessions and we have a great line up of speakers both international and local.

Dr David Colin Thome, an expert from the UK in self management will open the plenary session Primary Care Now and Into the Future with a UK perspective. Jenny Thomson, ADGP chair will outline the Australian perspective and the National Primary Care Partnership's vision.

We will be also looking at Local Drivers to Enhance Primary Care which includes a keynote address from Sir John Oldham from the UK giving an update on the directions in the UK.

The Forum continues to provide an excellent opportunity for the divisions network to maximise the impact of their contribution to community health and wellbeing through a program focusing on the future directions of primary health care in supporting general practice, building primary health care teams and strengthening partnerships between GPs, other health professionals, consumers and state health systems.

The concurrent streams will all look at partnerships:

1. The Maturing Network – Promoting our Brand
2. Partnerships through Divisions
3. Partnerships across the life span
4. Partnerships with general practice
5. Partnerships with government.

Book early to take advantage of the early bird rates – visit www.gpnetworkforum.com.au and book online.

If you need more information contact Conference Solutions on 02 6285 3000 | email adgp@con-sol.com or Cristy Roberts at ADGP on 02 6228 0800 | email croberts@adgp.com.au

✚ National Divisions Nursing in General Practice (NiGP) Forum

The first annual National Divisions in General Practice Forum will be held at the Carlton Crest in Brisbane on the 29 and 30 August 2006.

The Forum will showcase nationally relevant NiGP initiatives and models as well as offering opportunities to build expertise and support networks amongst division NiGP program officers.

Registrations have been received from 103 Divisions, with over 130 delegates registered.

Registrations have now closed, however if you wish to submit a late registration, forms are still available on the ADGP website <http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=11093>

✚ Nursing News

Nursing News is a monthly publication produced by ADGP. The newsletter contains the latest information on the Nursing in General Practice Program as well as useful information beyond the Division Network.

The July and August 2006 Edition of the Nursing News is available at <http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=2301>

Previous issues of Nursing News can be found in the document library on the ADGP website <http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=897>

✚ 2006 Australian Government Practice Nurse Scholarship Scheme

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing is providing funding for a third round of training/education scholarships for Practice Nurses.

In addition to scholarships for immunisation, wound management and pap smear training offered in previous rounds, the scheme has been broadened to include scholarships for other areas including chronic disease management.

Applications open on Tuesday 1 August and close on Friday 15 September 2006.

All registered and enrolled nurses currently working in general practice are eligible to apply.

The scholarship scheme will be administered by the Australian Practice Nurses Association (APNA) in conjunction with ADGP.

Further information can be found at www.apna.asn.au

USEFUL INFORMATION FROM BEYOND THE NETWORK

✚ National Illicit Drug Strategy Community Partnerships Initiative 5th Funding Round: Expressions of Interest

- Can you help or reduce illicit drug use in your community?
- Can you achieve this by developing a prevention or intervention project?
- Would you like to develop a project in partnership or with the support of other groups in your community?

If you answered yes to these questions you may be eligible to apply for a grant under the fifth funding round of the National Illicit Drug Strategy Community Partnerships Initiative.

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing is seeking Expressions of Interest from incorporated community groups or organisations who can demonstrate the ability to develop a prevention or early prevention project with support of other groups in your community.

An upper limit of \$80,000 plus GST (per grant) for up to two years has been set for individual projects proposals. For organisations wishing to collaborate and submit a combined proposal, an upper limit of \$120,000 plus GST (per grant) for up to two years has been set for each combined project proposal.

Further information is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/tenders.htm> Contact Sharon Dukic on 1800 654 083 or by email CPIfifthfunding.@health.gov.au for assistance.

✚ MBS item 708: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Health Check Data Update

On 1 May 2006, a new MBS item was made available to encourage GPs to provide an annual health check to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (from birth to 14 years).

The health check aims to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children receive optimum health care by encouraging early detection, diagnosis and management of common and treatable conditions.

The new child health check complements the existing MBS adult health check item 710 (for Indigenous people 15 years to 54 years) and the health assessment items 704 and 706 (for Indigenous people aged 55 years and over).

A snap shot of GP consults for item number MBS 708 for the month May 2006

						Total
NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	NT	
46	4	41	1	28	8	128

A total of 41 providers provided services with the total benefits paid \$20,992 for May (data provided by the Department of Health and Ageing)

ADGP is interested on feedback from GPs who have used the item number and suggestions on what additional resources or tools need to be provided to assist with undertaking the ATSI child health check ups. To provide feedback please send your comments to imchenry@adgp.com.au

✚ Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: A Clinical Case Definition and Guidelines for Medical Practitioners.

The Canadian clinical case definition has rewritten the guidelines to capture what is a complex illness that can cause life-long disability. The consensus document is a comprehensive overview of ME/CFS, including pathophysiology, symptoms, physical findings and treatments. The guidelines make recommendations for patient education, energy conservation, pacing, stress reduction techniques, diet and exercise.

Copies of the guides can be ordered through the Alison Hunter Memorial Foundation for a small charge. For further information please contact the Foundations Educational Adviser on 02 9922 4054.

✚ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Clinical Practice Update

The COPD Guidelines were originally published in the Medical Journal of Australia in 2003. In April this year an update was published in Medical Journal of Australia. The Australian Lung Foundation's COPD Evaluation Committee would like to ensure that all GPs are aware of the new updated guidelines.

For more information and details on how to get a copy of the guidelines, contact The Australian Lung Foundation toll free on 1800 654 301

✚ Indigenous Scholarships in Health

The National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health NCEPH are seeking enthusiastic people who share our commitment to increase the public health education and research capacity of Indigenous communities.

NCEPH provides opportunities for either short of long-term study in coursework or research programs and supports Indigenous applicants through these opportunities:

- PhD Scholarships in population health
- two generous scholarships in the Master of Applied Epidemiology (MAE), a two year, field based program with twice yearly intensive coursework on campus
- The Leonard Broom Scholarship, to study at NCEPH as an Honours, Post Graduate or Summer Scholar
- The Duguid Travelling Scholarship, for a conference or to visit or to study at NCEPH
- The Baume Travelling Scholarship, for a national or international conference.

Information and application material are available at the NCEPH Student Office nceph.student.office@anu.edu.au or phone 02 6125 2790.

✚ Master of Applied Epidemiology (MAE) 2007 Scholarships

The MAE, a unique, globally recognised program, provides opportunities for future leaders in national and global disease control.

- acquire the skills to solve real-time problems in disease control
- join a global network of practitioners, researchers, scholars and alumni, leading the field in applied epidemiology
- build competency on the job in field placements within public health organisations
- learn alongside your colleagues, in intensive coursework twice a year at the ANU
- receive a generous stipend scholarship for the two year program.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants highly encouraged. Two scholarship places are designated for Indigenous Australians on a competitive basis. If you are a highly motivated graduate in a health-related discipline (or equivalent) with at least two year's relevant work experience, you are eligible to apply.

Please contact the NCEPH Office for enquiries and application packs nceph.student.office@anu.edu.au or phone 02 6125 2790. Closing date is Monday 21 August 2006.

✚ Lifeline - Helping Australians cope with drought

Affects of the drought on the economy and the environment may be obvious, however the affect on people and communities is often harder to evaluate. In times of drought individuals and families may have difficulty coping with stress and feelings of hopelessness. As drought is often accompanied by factors that influence quality of life, such as loss of income or employment, problems such as anxiety, depression and even higher rates of suicide become serious mental health issues for communities in rural Australia that suffer from prolonged periods of drought.

Lifeline's *Just Ask* have developed the *Toolkit for getting through the drought* as a resource that provides some brief but helpful tips for coping with the emotional trauma associated with drought. Services such as Lifeline's 24 hour telephone counseling line 13 11 14 are available for people in need. To access the *Toolkit for getting through drought* or other toolkits visit Lifeline's *Just Ask* at www.justask.org.au

For more information about Lifeline's services visit www.lifeline.org.au

✚ Veterans' MATES Module 7 released - PPIs in GORD: Reduce the dose – Keep the benefits

Module 7 of the Veterans' Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Service (Veterans' MATES) has been released to medical practitioners and pharmacies nationwide, and is being released to veterans in July 2006. It is vitally important that all veterans participate in the Veterans' MATES program as they are mostly elderly and medication mismanagement by elderly people is a major cause of their admission to hospital.

Veterans' MATES modules have been recognised by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Quality Assurance & Continuing Professional Development Points program from module 4 onwards. In order to gain the 30 Category 1 points for participating in these Active Learning Modules, you must complete two modules by completing the information provided to you and returning the Response Form. Only GPs who are managing veterans selected in Veterans' MATES are eligible for QA and CPD points.

For more information on the MATES program or to access module materials please go to www.dva.gov.au/health/veteransmates

✚ Department of Defence – Higher Employer Support Payments for Defence Health Professionals

Employers of health professionals may be entitled to payments as high as \$5600 a week when they release their employees for Australian Defence Force Reserve Service. When a health professional serves part-time in the Navy, Army or air Force Reserves they are making a substantial contribution to Australia's national defence. They are also picking up both professional and general skills and gaining from experiences that are quite different from those they normally encounter in their civilian health positions.

Payments may be as high as \$5600 a week for many health specialists, while nursing categories are set at \$3150 a week. Payments can be backdated to the first day of absence from the Reservist's civilian workplace. For a hospital nurse undertaking a six month deployment to Iraq, this can mean more than \$80,000 in Employer Support Payments that the hospital can use to hire replacement nurses to cover the absence or for any other expenditure it wishes.

To encourage employer support for part-time service in the reserve, the Federal Government launched the Employer Support Payment Scheme in 2001. This scheme currently pays employers \$1035.90 per week when their reservists are absent on Defence service. Self-employed Reservists can also qualify.

For further information on the higher level payments for health professionals under the Employer Support Payment Scheme, see the Employer Support Payment sections of the new Defence Reserves website at www.defence.gov.au/reserves (look under 'Claims under CDF Capability Provisions') or phone the employer Support Payment Scheme help line on 1800 803 485 or email esp@defence.gov.au

✚ Extension of the More Doctors for Outer Metropolitan Areas Measure

The Australian Government announced in the Budget 2006-07 continued funding of \$64.5 million for the successful More Doctors for Outer Metropolitan Areas Measure for a further four years.

Some of the changes to the Measure being put in place from the relaunch date of 1 July 2006:

- the Relocation Incentive Grant has been increased up to \$30,000 for doctors relocating to established practices and up to \$40,000 for doctors establishing new practices in outer metropolitan areas
- the entire outer metropolitan zone of all State capital cities will now be eligible for the grant for the next four years. Maps showing the eligible areas are provided in the Department's website at www.health.gov.au/outermetro
- it will now be easier for GP registrars who complete the General Pathway of the Australian General Practice Training Program to take up the grant if they choose to practice in an outer metropolitan area, regardless of the location of their final training placement.

More information about the Measure is available from the Department's Outer Metropolitan website at www.health.gov.au/outermetro. Alternatively, you may wish to contact Mr Stanford Harrison, Director, Workforce Distribution Programs on 6289 8996 or Stanford.Harrison@health.gov.au

✚ Rural Health Education Foundation Satellite Television Broadcast

Tuesday 22 August 2006 8pm EST and Friday 25 August 12.30pm EST

Chronic Renal Disease

Chronic kidney (renal) disease (CKD) is increasing in Australia at the rate of 6% pa. In Australia, currently one out of three people are at risk of developing CKD, one out of seven people have early CKD, and one out of 1400 people have end-stage CKD.

By watching this program, viewers will

- identify risk factors for renal disease
- formulate a patient management plan based on these risk factors
- understand the continuum of renal disease
- understand the impact of renal disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- identify the respective roles within the multidisciplinary team – including the GP, nurse practitioner and nutritionist – in managing a patient with renal disease.

For more details including broadcast times for all Australian states visit the RHEF website <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/508/508.html> program page.

✚ Coordination of the 2006 Regional Health Services (RHS) and Multipurpose Centres (MPC) Forum in Queensland: Request for Expressions of Interest

The Queensland State Office of the Department of Health and Ageing is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from capable and experienced individuals or organisations to coordinate a forum for 30 services funded under the RHS and MPC Programs. The two day Forum will be held in Brisbane no later than 29 March 2007.

The Contractor will organise all aspects of the Forum including the agenda, venue and travel and accommodation for delegates. Successful respondents will have the ability to tailor a Forum appropriate to rural and remote and predominately small community-based, health services operating within Queensland.

Further information and documentation is available at www.health.gov.au/tenders.htm

For further assistance contact Kelly Favaloro on phone 07 3360 2634 or by email Kelly.Favaloro@health.gov.au

POSITIONS VACANT

✚ Chief Executive Officer

Central Australian Division of Primary Health Care – Alice Springs

The CADPHC is mission to lead change on improving primary health care access and delivery in Central Australia through interdisciplinary teams and support to primary health care providers.

CADPHC is seeking a top class CEO to drive forward the business agenda of the division. We are looking for a person who will find opportunities to innovatively expand our range of services.

You will need a strong managerial background, preferably with Primary Health Care industry experience. Business qualifications will be highly regarded.

Applications close: 5pm 28 August 2006.

For further information please contact Chelsea Kroemer on 08 8924 3333 or email your applications to ckroemer@au.drakeintl.com

Education and Training Coordinator - Headspace

ADGP is a member of a consortium funded by the Australian Government to establish and operate *headspace*, Australia's new National Youth Mental Health Foundation. The aim of *headspace* is to reduce the burden of disease in young people aged 12-25 years caused by mental health and related substance use disorders.

The ADGP has received funds to co-lead, in partnership with the Australian Psychological Society (APS), the development of the Service Provider Education and Training Program. This program will develop and disseminate education and training resources and initiatives to a range of service providers who work with young people, to build their skills in engagement, assessment and the provision of evidence-based treatments.

This position is an opportunity to contribute to major national youth mental health service reform. The successful applicant will coordinate and lead the development, delivery and evaluation of the Service Provider Education and Training Program in collaboration with the coordinator appointed by the APS.

Applicants should have demonstrated excellence in program development and experience in the development and delivery of training resources for a range of health professionals. Applicants should have a working knowledge of adult learning practices, qualifications in a relevant field particularly from one of the allied mental health professions, and a sound understanding of youth mental health clinical service delivery. Knowledge of contemporary primary health and community care environments would also be an advantage.

The position is a full-time role for two years with possible extension to June 2009. The position description is available at <http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=1591> . Contact Leanne Wells on 02 6228 0854 or lwells@adgp.com.au with enquiries and applications.

Medical Recruitment Coordinator

The Border Medical Recruitment Taskforce (BMRT) is looking for a Medical Recruitment Coordinator who will manage the recruitment process for both candidates and clients from start to finish. This will include responsibility for:

- providing market knowledge and advice to the BMRT
- sourcing suitable medical officers through processes that will include networking, advertising and referrals
- securing the very best candidates to work in Albury-Wodonga.

The position requires a dynamic person with high level communication and networking skills. Extensive experience in recruiting, especially in the medical sector, along with appropriate tertiary qualifications will be highly regarded.

An attractive salary package in the vicinity of \$80,000 will be negotiated. Applications close Monday August 28 2006

Inquiries and an application package for this position are available from Trevor Cowell

CEO

Border Division of General Practice

PO Box 168 WODONGA VIC 3689 Ph: 02 6049 1900 Email staff@borderp.org.au

✚ Practice Support Officers (3 positions) – Central Coast Division of General Practice

The Central Coast Division of General Practice (located at Erina) is a not-for-profit organisation supporting General Practitioners to improve the health of the local community.

Three newly created positions require highly motivated, innovative and customer focused team members who will be responsible for delivering information and training services and the promotion of services to general practices (GPs, Practice Nurses, Practice Managers and staff). The range of services includes chronic disease management, quality practice management and information management.

Some of the essential criteria required for these positions are:

- relevant tertiary qualifications or relevant experience in practice management, nursing or health information management
- ability to facilitate training programs and understanding of adult learning principles
- excellent oral and written communication skills including presentation skills
- experience in customer relations management
- experience in working as a committed member of a team
- demonstrated experience in the use of Microsoft Office including Word, Excel, Internet and Email

For enquiries please contact Paul Hussein on 02 4356 2294. For information package contact reception 02 4365 2294. All applicants must obtain an information package. Applications must address the essential and desirable criteria as outlined in the package. Applications should be posted to:

Sarah van de Scheur
Executive Support Officer
Central Coast Division of General Practice
Suite 4 Erina Plaza
210 The Entrance Road
ERINA NSW 2250

✚ Health and Medical Education Project Officer – Rural Health Education Foundation

The Rural Health Education Foundation is seeking a dynamic and experienced Health and Medical Education Project Officer to work with us on the development and production of a wide range of professional development television projects for rural and remote health professionals.

This full time position is located in the Foundation's Canberra office. Working as part of a team, you will have the opportunity to use your experience in health and medical education and your excellent research and project management skills to organise, create, produce, distribute and evaluate our programs. You will liaise with program partners, expert medical panel members and television production personnel.

This position will be offered in the first instance on a one year contract, with possible extension dependent on your performance and the organisation's funding.

Visit the RHEF website www.rhef.com.au for more information.

For selection criteria and application information, please contact:

Amanda Little
Head, Program Development
Rural Health Education Foundation
PO Box 324
CURTIN ACT 2605 Email: network@rhef.com.au
Ph: 02 6232 5480

✚ Programs Coordinator – Mackay Division of General Practice

Use your substantial experience in health programs to manage a dynamic programs and projects team in our health organisation. You will be enthusiastic, self-motivated, tertiary qualified professional who appreciates the important role that GPs play in the health system. This position requires a highly skilled team leader with experience in report writing and plan preparation, as well as program research, development, collaboration and evaluation.

Total salary package in the range of \$60--\$75K depending on experience and qualifications. We have a focus on providing on-going professional development and travel opportunities. This full time position is offered as a one year contract. Assistance provided with relocation. All applicants are encouraged to call Carmel on 07 4953 4491 for an application kit.

You can email your cv to admin@mackaydgp.com.au. Interviews will be held in early October.

CONFERENCES AND COURSES

✚ National GPLO Conference

Every year the national GP Liaison Officer (GPLO) Conference 'piggy-backs' on a national event. This year's conference will be on Wednesday 6 September, preceding the Australian Disease Management Association's (ADMA) 2nd Annual National Conference in Melbourne being held on the 7-8 September. Please go to the website for more information <http://www.adma.org.au/>

Lenora Lippman of GPDV is convening the GPLO Conference this year. Please contact her on 03 9341 5200 or email l.lippmann@gpdv.com.au for more information.

✚ RACGP 49th Annual Scientific Convention – Be the future

5-8 October 2006
Brisbane

This year the RACGP Annual Scientific Convention (ASC) will be held in Brisbane from 5 - 8 October at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The overarching theme of the convention is 'Be the Future' and content will reflect recent and future advances in Australian general practice. Outstanding keynote speakers include **Professor Ian Fraser, Australian of the Year 2006**, Professor Paul Glasziou and many others, presenting topics that are close to GPs hearts. A broad range of workshop topics include; indigenous health, dermatology, practice procedures, genetic diseases and integrative medicine. The 2006 convention is a must for doctors committed to ensuring the highest quality care to improve the health of our patients. Practice staff, Divisional staff and researchers will also gain invaluable insight from our dynamic Scientific Program.

Don't miss your opportunity to experience excellent workshops, presentations and academic sessions at our 49th Annual Scientific Convention. Join us in Queensland's contemporary urban capital and discover where the future lies.

For the latest details on the convention, including program dates and time, please visit the RACGP website at www.racgp.org.au/asc2006

✚ GARDASIL – Be Prepared Cervical Cancer Vaccine Symposium

A paradigm shift in cervical cancer prevention. Clinical meetings on GARDASIL, the world's first vaccine indicated for cervical cancer prevention are being held in Australian Capital Cities in August.

GARDASIL, the quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will be made available to women in Australia at the end of August. CSL Pharmaceuticals is hosting clinical meetings to inform and educate GPs and nurse practitioners about GARDASIL to assist them in handling questions and requests from consumers.

The meetings will focus on:

- The burden of cervical cancer and pre-cancerous lesions
- The extensive GARDASIL clinical trials program
- An open Forum to discuss the application of GARDASIL for patient care

GPs can contact 1800 062 277 for more information.

For more information on GARDASIL and HPV go to www.cervicalcancer.com.au

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Information in this newsletter is for the use and benefit of all members of SBOs and Divisions, so please pass it on, and recycle the whole, or parts, of this publication to your members with due acknowledgement to ADGP.

If SBOs, Divisions and other readers have information for, or comments on, *ADGP News* please contact

Sue Aiesi
Phone: 02 6228 0822
Email: saiesi@adgp.com.au.

Or

Cristy Roberts
Phone: 02 6228 0851
Email: croberts@adgp.com.au

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