



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Improved GP services lie in workforce incentives

Australia's peak body representing divisions of general practice today released their 2007-08 Federal Budget submission.

Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) Chair Dr Tony Hobbs said the submission provides targeted and practical solutions to the many challenges facing the health care system in Australia particularly in the area of the health workforce shortage.

"We know that health systems with a strong primary health care sector deliver improved health, better access and equity and lower costs"

"There are shortages and maldistributions of all health workforces, particularly GPs. This means many communities have poor access to primary health care services"

It is vital that we improve access by making the most of available clinicians by supporting and encouraging multidisciplinary team-based care".

"To build effective provider networks, practices need space for practice nurses, medical students, registrars and allied health professionals," Dr Hobbs said.

The health system needs smart, innovative ways of delivering primary health care. There are ways to improve GP services and access. ADGP has recommended:

- Expansion of the practice nurse practice incentive payment to all practices in Australia
- Incentives to encourage allied health professionals and specialists to participate in care planning and case conferences led by the GP
- Expansion of the More Allied Health Services program to urban areas of workforce shortage
- A national infrastructure grants scheme to encourage practice amalgamation and co-located or collaborative team-based practices

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said practice amalgamation incentives and infrastructure grants will see improved services.

"Merging practices allows for well planned consulting rooms that can accommodate teams of providers and delivery of improved team-based care.

"We have seen leadership in health from the Council of Australian Governments. However, ensuring a health system that is affordable, that delivers quality care and that delivers on COAG's vision for health can only be achieved with investment in primary health care," Ms Carnell said.

The submission can be downloaded from www.adgp.com.au

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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