



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Senator Santoro addressed aged care conference

Minister for Ageing Senator Santo Santoro today addressed the inaugural Australian Divisions of General Practice's (ADGP) Aged Care Conference.

Almost 300 delegates representing divisions of general practice, aged care and allied health professionals heard the Minister discuss a number of aged care issues including information management, GP access to patient records, consulting rooms in aged care facilities and improved Medicare item numbers.

ADGP Chair Dr Tony Hobbs said the conference which ran all of Friday discussed and investigated important issues surrounding aged care in Australia.

"There is no doubt there is an ageing population. We need to continue working together to improve the levels of care provided to older Australians, whether living at home or in an aged care facility.

"Having the Minister address these concerns to front line carers and policy makers highlights the importance of aged care in this country.

The Minister publicly congratulated all parties', including divisions of general practice, involvement and success on Aged Care Panels. These panels have improved elderly people's access to primary health care.

"This conference recognised the implications of population projections and identified best clinical practice in geriatrics," Dr Hobbs said.

The conference covered a number of critical topics. In addition to the Minister's address, delegates also heard from academics and health professionals.

The issues addressed included:

- information flow between hospitals, GPs and Residential Aged Care Facilities
- options for recruiting, supporting and up-skilling the primary health care workforce in aged care
- progress and success of the Aged Care GP Panels Initiative

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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- an overview of the current aged care landscape.
- advance care planning and end of life issues including taking a closer look at the *Respecting Patient Choices Program*

All presentations will be made available at www.adgp.com.au

For more information please call Kate Carnell, ADGP Chief Executive Officer, on 0415 662 266.