

A unified Network - *delivering local health solutions through general practice*

At this week's AGM the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP), formally changed its name to the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN). AGPN is the peak body representing the interests of the 119 members of the Network as well as the eight state based bodies (SBOs). Approximately 95% of GPs are members of their local divisions, making AGPN the largest voice for general practice in Australia.

AGPN Chair, Dr Tony Hobbs said the name change is important to the future of the Divisions Network and primary health care.

"As a united and cohesive network which is clear about its place in the health system, its priorities and its point of difference from other GP groups and non-government organisations, we can be change leaders and really influence the health debate. Through AGPN, divisions can be a recognisable force in driving primary health care reform and in the delivery of improved health outcomes.

"To achieve this we must have a united Network with a higher profile with politicians, the communities and with the media. Our stakeholders need to know about the important health programs and local solutions that are lead by divisions." Dr Hobbs said

Divisions are located across the length and breadth of this country. They are independent organisations delivering specifically targeted programs to their local communities, using general practice as the vital channel.

"Fundamentally the Network aims to keep people healthy and out the hospital system. Network members share a common goal and vision and that is to improve the health of our communities by delivering local health solutions through general practice. It makes common sense to band together and be recognised for the innovative and targeted programs that are being delivered across the country," Dr Hobbs said.

In forming the Australian General Practice Network, all members will now have access to shared resources that will reduce duplication, improve our joint capacity to communicate the Network's message , better support general practice and ultimately to improve the health of our local communities.

AGPN CEO Kate Carnell said 2007 will see a united Network collaborating and growing stronger.

"We will be recognised by not just government and stakeholders but consumers as a leader in delivering local health solutions through general practice.

"There will be a noticeable difference in the way the Network liaises with each other, the media and members of Parliament. We will be further promoting and celebrating the excellent work throughout the Network," Ms Carnell said.

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