

November 28 2006

Highest achievement award to Hunter Urban CEO

Hunter Urban Division of General Practice CEO, Dr Arn Sprogis was awarded the Australian General Practice Network's highest accolade - the John Aloizos Medal at this year's AGPN annual Forum on the Gold Coast.

AGPN Chair Dr Tony Hobbs congratulated Dr Sprogis saying the medal is awarded in honour of an outstanding contribution to the general practice network.

"Dr Arn Sprogis has been the CEO of the Hunter Urban Division of General Practice since its inception in 1992. It is now one of the most successful divisions employing over 350 staff with an annual turnover of \$10 million," Dr Hobbs said.

In August 2005 he was named by *Australian Doctor* as one of the 10 most influential people in general practice in Australia. *Australian Doctor* Editor Nadine Meehan said

"He is politically savvy and an inspiration to other GPs. Arn is a leader and an achiever. He's got what it takes to make things happen,"

Dr John Aloizos was the inaugural Chairman of ADGP and one of the founders of the divisions movement in Australia.

He was a pioneer for divisions of general practice, as are the recipients of this medal.

In presenting Dr Sprogis with his award, Dr Aloizos commented on Arn's extreme passion for divisions of general practice and primary health care.

"He is someone with vision, drive and a sense of purpose that comes only with a belief that what you are working towards will result in better patient outcomes – not if, but when, and by how much," Dr Aloizos said.

Also awarded last night was the Chairman's Award recognising an individual's contribution to the Network. This important award was received by Queenslander Ann Marie Liddy.

Dr Tony Hobbs said Ann Marie Liddy is the CEO of the Queensland Divisions of General Practice and deserves this public recognition for her continued efforts in delivering for Queensland divisions and for her national contribution.

"Ann Marie has ensured that Peter Beattie knows just who he can count on to deliver improvements in primary health care.

"Anne Marie has also been instrumental in the formation of a national Network of divisions. Her leadership at the State based organizations (SBO) coalition has been absolutely essential in achieving national leadership for the Network.

"The Divisions Network and general practice is very privileged to have two such talented people as Arn and Ann Marie as leaders. We really appreciate their commitment and contribution," Dr Hobbs said.

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