

Funding for Divisions Network secure

Today's announcement by Health Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott of future funding for the Divisions of General Practice to 2010-11 has been welcomed by AGPN.

AGPN Chair Dr Tony Hobbs said the funding of \$243m over three years was a clear expression by the Government of their support and confidence in the value of the Network. This funding builds on the \$78m in 2006-07 to \$82.7m in 2010-11.

"AGPN is delighted that the Divisions of General Practice Network has been supported and funded through to 2010-11. We can now confidently continue working to achieve our fundamental goal - to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians by delivering local health solutions through general practice," Dr Hobbs said.

"The fact that the government has reinvested in the Network to provide local innovations to national health issues is a sign of the integral role divisions play in providing diverse primary health care.

"However, unchecked, medical costs will continue to rise. For the health system to be sustainable it needs smart ways of delivering primary health care that focus on wellness and prevention.

"With further investment in the Australian general practice network we can build a strong primary health care sector that delivers improved health outcomes, better access and equity at lower cost."

The Australian general practice network is one of the few organisations with an established, nationwide alliance of health professionals who can link with governments, primary care providers, community services, consumers and other key stakeholders to deliver health care solutions responsive to the needs of local communities.

Dr Hobbs said "With an increased investment in this network there is no doubt that the overall effectiveness of Australia's health system will be improved."

To achieve our vision for health we need serious long-term investment in primary health care.

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