



# NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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## ADGP welcomes new Health Minister

Dr Rob Walters, Chair of the Australian Divisions of General Practice, today congratulated Tony Abbott on his appointment as Minister for Health and Ageing.

*ADGP is the peak national body representing Australia's 120 local Divisions of General Practice. Approximately 94% of Australian GPs are members of a Division of General Practice.*

"This is a critical time for general practice. Unless we can address some of the key challenges confronting general practitioners, such as workforce shortages, rising medical indemnity costs and a lack of support for practice infrastructure, the viability of our health system is seriously threatened," Dr Walters said.

"ADGP looks forward to working with Mr Abbott to meet these challenges and to promote a strong and sustainable primary health care sector for all Australians.

"Divisions of General Practice have a wealth of knowledge about general practice and Primary Health Care and are committed to supporting a general practice team approach to the delivery of high quality health care in an often difficult environment.

"I urge Mr Abbott to work closely with the Divisions Network to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to the key health issues currently confronting general practice and the community.

"By working closely and cooperatively with Divisions and the other GP groups, I am confident that we can ensure that general practice remains an attractive career choice for medical graduates so we can meet the primary health care needs of the Australian community.

"I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the outgoing Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Kay Patterson.

"Senator Patterson's close engagement with general practice and her willingness to engage the General Practice Representative Group was greatly appreciated.

"On behalf of ADGP I would like to wish her well in her new role as Minister for Family and Community Services," Dr Walters said.

*For comment:*

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