

# **Australian Divisions of General Practice: Review of Board Governance, Structures and Processes**

## **AGPN Board Position in Response to Paper One: AGPN Committee Structure**

### **Overview**

The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) Board has initiated a review of its corporate governance. The first consultation paper of a series of three was released for comment on 8 October 2006. The paper sought feedback from the Network on the establishment of committees of the AGPN Board, with a view to determining the most appropriate structure to meet AGPN's information and governance needs.

Following consultation with our membership, the AGPN Board has made the following determinations regarding AGPN's committee structure.

AGPN committees will be a mixture of Standing Committees and Issues Based Committees and will act as expert advisory groups making recommendations for AGPN Board consideration. Membership of committees will be based on the most appropriately skilled representative for the position. Therefore, members will be selected by the AGPN Board and drawn from a range of sources depending on what is most sensible and relevant.

### **Standing Committees**

The AGPN will establish a Standing Committee to oversee finance. This will be the only Standing Committee outlined in the AGPN Constitution, excluding the Board's powers to implement Issues Based Committees as required.

A special resolution will be put to the membership at the 2007 Annual General Meeting to amend the AGPN constitution to reflect this determination.

### **Issues Based Committees**

The AGPN will establish Issues Based Committees to provide advice to the Directors and/or to exercise delegated powers. Issues Based Committees will be established on an as-needs basis. AGPN strategic planning will play a key role in determining which committees are required.

Examples of Issues Based Committees expected to operate in 2007 include:

- Governance Committee
- WA Committee

- Rural Committee
- Information Management Committee
- Forum Committee

### **Membership of Standing and Issues Based Committees**

Membership of all committees will be based on the most appropriately skilled representatives for available positions. Members could include any combination of GPs, AGPN management, SBO management, Division management, practice nurses, practice managers, allied health professionals, community / consumers, or others such as government representatives, industry experts or consultants as required.

Recruitment processes, roles and responsibilities and frequency of committee meetings will be determined on a committee-by-committee basis. Transparent processes will be followed, and Terms of References for each committee will outline relevant features.