

Face to Face Board Meeting and Planning Day 24/25th February 2007

The AGPN Board met in Canberra on 24th February for a Board Planning Day and on the following day for a Board meeting. The planning day focused on organisational priorities for 2007 and directions for AGPN in the 2008-2011 triennium.

AGPN Strategic Plan 2008-2011

The planning day will contribute to the network strategic planning process AGPN has agreed to facilitate in consultation with members following the question from members supported at the 2006 AGM. The following broad priority areas for AGPN for 2008-2011 were discussed:

- *Membership* – including attention to membership needs and support
- *Funding* – including strategic funding partnerships with other government, non-government and business and philanthropic and targets for funding diversification
- *Structure* – including consideration of the membership mix of the AGPN Board
- *Network leadership* – including working actively to position the network well into the future
- *Influencing primary health care directions* – including continuing to influence the direction of government policy through a series of well argued policy statements, and supporting PHC team models through tools and business cases
- *Enhanced stakeholder partnerships* – including building momentum around the work of the National Primary Health Care Partnership, improving relationships with the GP representative groups, and determining strategic approaches to partnerships with the for profit corporate sector.

The Board recognised the opportunity to review strategic priorities following the outcomes of a network strategic planning process which is currently being developed by the AGPN-SBO Coalition.

Chairs and CEO Updates

The Chair reported:

- that the Australian Government has reinvested in the network to 2011 with indexation
- positive outcomes from recent meetings with both Minister Abbott and Shadow Minister Roxon.
- Increasingly strong relationships with health based National Associations
- Ongoing productive relationships with DoHA, DVA, FaCSIA and PM&C

Policy Issues

The Board discussed:

- network reaction to date to the AGPN discussion paper *Funding general practice based multidisciplinary team care in Australia: improving outcomes and reducing inequality in health*. Early indications are that the paper has been well received
- the need to revise the draft IM Policy in light of member feedback to broaden its focus to general practice as well as divisions and recirculate for consultation

- feedback to the Office of Access Card regarding 'card in use' issues.

Governance issues

The Board discussed:

- feedback on *Consultation paper 1: AGPN Committee Structure* in favour of simplifying this aspect of the Constitution
- its leadership role with regard to membership and the extent to which it reflects the multidisciplinary team-based policy in the Primary Health Care Position Statement and agreed that the next governance paper 3 on board structure should canvass these issues
- the category of AGPN associate membership and agreed that National Associations representing the health sector be admitted under the category of associate membership as a 'national association member'
- agreement to establish a Business Development Committee to review and assess the development of a business model for provision of general practice administrative support services.

Network issues

The Board affirmed that the communication and advocacy strategy remains a core priority for 2007 and received several reports where Divisions had been successful in engaging local members and media to boost the profile of their organisation.

The Board agreed to support a national underwriting and implementation of GP Census Tasmania, commencing with one state/territory as a reference site.

The Board noted that network feedback did not rate Forum 06 as highly as the previous year. The Forum Committee will revamp the format for Forum 07 to allow for more discussion, workshops and policy input as suggested by the evaluation. It was agreed that the Forum could have the dual focus of 'doing division business better' and 'the future focus and profile of the network'.

Financial and organisational performance

The Board noted that the company is in a good financial position. The overall company income increased by approximately \$3 million. The Board noted that this reflects the fact that AGPN is administering contracts with SBOs where the funding is flowing through AGPN to the SBOs.

The Board reviewed the performance of the CEO and commended her on her performance.

The Board noted progress across the full range of AGPN programs.