

## GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK LEADERSHIP GROUP (GPNLG)

# COMMUNIQUE

National health reform and its implications for the Network, eHealth and Indigenous health programs were key priorities for the General Practice Network Leadership Group (GPNLG) when it met in Canberra in September.

GPNLG consists of the Chairs and CEOs of the eight state and territory based organisations (SBOs) and the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN).

### **National health reform**

GPNLG members participated in a national health reform workshop facilitated by Carla Cranny on day one. The session provided an opportunity for each SBO to provide feedback on the interface with state/territory governments and for the group to review commonality in jurisdictions for follow-up at a national level.

GPNLG provided initial input into the proposed blueprint for Primary Health Care Organisations to strongly position the Network in national health reform and considered their future roles and functions.

GPNLG is committed to working through existing state/territory meetings to continue conversations with general practice networks (divisions) about the future role of the Network in national health reform.

AGPN plans to clarify definitions and key concepts to ensure consistency in Network Members' understanding of the strategic implications of the proposed national health reform for their organisations and their members.

### **eHealth**

A new council to oversee the use of general practice data collected from participating practices has been formed with AGPN as one of the key members. GPNLG was advised of the formation of the General Practice Data Governance Council. The new body, with representatives from the peak general practice organisations, will work closely with the National eHealth Transition Authority (NeHTA) and the Safety and Quality Commission on key eHealth issues in general practice.

GPNLG discussed the need for the Network to align with national eHealth directions to ensure the Network has a role in the rollout of the eHealth strategy once finalised. As part of this work, GPNLG will further scope the role and function of the 60 eHealth officers proposed for the Network as a budget initiative.

AGPN will continue discussions with the Improvement Foundation Australia to leverage off infrastructure to enhance the Network's data management capacity.

### **Mental health**

GPNLG received an update on the ATAPS review and recommendations currently with the Minister. ATAPS is likely to have funding with the same quantum with a different funding model to minimise demand management issues and free up funds for innovation. General practice networks will be informed about new ATAPS contracts once the Minister has made a decision.

GPNLG will scope a proposal for consideration by the Department on the future priorities, roles and functions of the DLO Network. The proposal will consider the value in linking the DLO and Co-morbidity Network roles.

### **Indigenous health**

GPNLG discussed the value in working closely with the community-controlled sector in order for the new Closing the Gap measures to have a significant impact on the health of Indigenous Australians. It was noted that appropriate workforce support within the community-controlled sector is vital to the success of the initiative.

### **Other matters**

A range of strategic issues and operational matters put forward by members were also discussed including agreement by the group to:

- Develop a short strategic paper on the future of integration, prevention and chronic disease self management to identify opportunities in this space
- Develop a pandemic evaluation template to capture state and territory experiences of the swine flu outbreak and recommendations to feed into a national evaluation

- Circulate draft responses to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission Final Report, the National Preventative Health Strategy and the draft Primary Health Care Strategy to the Network.

For further information on the meeting outcomes please contact your SBO.