

Bold but consultative**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMUNIQUÉ**

Summary of discussion at Board Meeting, Thursday, 5 March 2009 at GPSA
Chair: Dr Mike Beckoff

1. Progressing Strategic Directions for GPSA, 2009-2010

The CEO presented to the Board management's recommendations to enable achievement of the Board's strategic directions. The Board endorsed the plan, which represents a significant shift for the organisation to a customer-focused approach that delivers essential support services to the Network. Consultation will be held with GPSA staff and Network CEOs and EOs about the proposed changes during the week of 16 March 2009.

2. SA Divisions Network Meeting, 12-13 June 2008 at Glenelg – Next Steps

The Chair advised that notes from SA Divisions Network Meeting on 12 June 2008 were unavailable. However, the Board noted that GPSA was moving forward to achieve key outcomes from that meeting in relation to member engagement, member services and the Network working together in a spirit of trust and respect.

The Board agreed that work on coordinated responses to the *National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission Interim Report* and *Towards a National Primary Health Care Strategy* provided an opportunity for continuing discussion and development of the SA perspective via GPSA website secure discussion forums, which are currently under construction. The suggestion that the Network come together again in three months' time to build on that work in a strategic day, similar to the Glenelg meeting, was noted.

3. GP Payment – New Rates

The Board approved an increase in hourly rates of payment under the GP Claims Policy in accordance with CPI increases of 6% since 1 March 2007, namely an increase from \$135 to \$144 per hour for the general rate of payment and from \$140 to \$150 per hour for GPSA Board Directors, with the increase to take effect from 5 March 2008. *See attached updated Policy.*

4. Responses to Divisions Funding Review

The Chair advised that GPSA had expressed strong concerns about any reduction in Divisions' core funding at the recent quarterly meeting with the State Office of the Department of Health and Ageing. The issue was also raised at the recent General Practice Network Leadership Group meeting in Canberra. The Board noted that if the Department of Health and Ageing reappropriates Commonwealth funding to Divisions/SBOs on a population basis, all Divisions in SA and GPSA were likely to be affected.

The Board also noted correspondence from Mr Kim Hosking, Chair of the Divisions Executive Network SA, to Mr David Butt, CEO, AGPN, concerning the Divisions funding formula and potential reduction in core Commonwealth funding, and steps taken by AGPN to advocate on behalf of Divisions. The Board noted that initial work in capturing information on potential funding opportunities at the State level to develop business cases for State funding had also begun.

5. Succession Planning and GPSA Board Vacancies 2009

The Board agreed on the need for good succession planning with regard to the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer positions at least 4-6 months before the Annual General Meeting, and for the Board to communicate to the Network its position concerning who would take on those roles in the 2009-2010 Board. The Chair will issue a communiqué to the Network on the Board's succession planning after the May Board meeting, at which Directors due for re-election will advise whether they intend to renominate. The communiqué will summarise the Board's discussion and identify the Chair elect, Vice Chair elect and Treasurer elect in the 2009-2010 Board of Directors.

6. GP Representative – SA Cervix Screening Program

The Board considered three nominations for the position of GP Representative, SA Cervix Screening Program, which had been received following a call for nominations by GPSA closing on 3 March 2009.

The Board endorsed Dr Meredith Frearson for the position of GP Representative, and requested that the other two nominees be approached to act as proxies in the event that Dr Frearson is unable to attend meetings.

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Chair, Board of Directors

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13 March 2009

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Issued	05/03/09
Replaces	31/01/08
First Issued	15/02/00
Policy Number	BRD 4



General Practice SA Incorporated

GP Claims Policy

1. This policy is to be read in conjunction with GPSA's Committee Representation policy.
2. GP claims are reimbursement for loss of income.
3. Attendance and traveling time to GPSA activities will be reimbursed at a rate of \$144.00 per hour for GPs and \$150.00 per hour for GPSA Board Directors. Where reimbursement from an external body on which a GP is representing GPSA is less than these specified rates, GPSA will provide additional reimbursement to cover the difference.
4. Reading time, which applies for up to two hours per meeting for GPSA Board Directors and to other endorsed GP representatives where approved.
5. The maximum full day meeting time reimbursement for a GP claim is for 7.5 hours (traveling time may be in addition to this) and is payable at the appropriate rate as set out in (3).
6. Travel costs reimbursed for travel by private vehicle will be paid at the Australian Tax Office rate for 2007-08:
58 cents per km (*up to 16 cc rotary engine 800cc*)
69 cents per km (*1601 - 2600cc (rotary engine 801 - 1300cc)*)
70 cents per km (*2601cc and over (rotary engine 1300cc and over)*).
7. Air travel will be reimbursed in full for economy class travel only.
8. GP claims are to be submitted within one month of the date on which the costs were incurred with all claims for the current financial year to be received by 30 June of that year.
9. Original invoices, receipts etc must be attached to each claim. This includes items such as Cabcharge docketts.
10. From 1 July 2000, all GP claims must quote an Australian Business Number (ABN). It is recommended that payment be made to a practice, a Division or to a registered business. If the ABN is not quoted, 46.5 % of the amount claimed will need to be submitted to the Australian Taxation Office by GPSA.
11. To simplify processing especially once GST applies, it is recommended that GPSA make all travel and accommodation bookings where these are to be claimed back from GPSA.

12. This policy will take effect upon date of endorsement and subsequent amendment.

Endorsed 15 February 2000

*Amended 25 June 2001, 1 July 2003, 1 July 2004,
1 September 2004, 15 December 2005, 1 March 2007,
31 January 2008, 5 March 2009*