

Bold but consultative

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMMUNIQUÉ

Summary of discussion at Board Meeting, Thursday, 12 November 2009 at GPSA
Chair: Dr Mike Beckoff

1. **New Urban GP Director**

The Board welcomed Dr Girolamo (Roly) Vinci, Adelaide Western General Practice Network, to his first Board meeting at General Practice SA.

2. **GPSA Strategic Directions**

The Board considered a range of strategic planning tools, and agreed to convene a special meeting in early 2010 for a strategic and business planning day with the CEO and senior management team at GPSA. Given the significant changes occurring at both State and national levels, the Board agreed it was timely to reconsider future directions within this changing environment and to align the organisation's strategic and business planning with key performance indicators. This approach would bring all elements into the new business systems being established at GPSA, thus providing a more effective strategic and planning tool.

3. **Health Reform**

The Board discussed the recent AGPN National Forum, including the draft document, *Australian Primary Health Care Organisations: A Blueprint*, as presented by AGPN. The Board noted that GPSA will continue to promote the centrality of the general practitioner in any network of service providers – and emphasised that the value of the Divisions network was its GP membership. The Board noted the need for business modelling and to work from an evidence-base when discussing the number of PHCOs.

GPSA will request a meeting with Minister Hill after the next COAG meeting to discuss the health reform agenda. GPSA will also develop a public position on the health reform agenda, which will be reflective of what members want, a unified position for SA, and a fair and equitable model that works for the State. The SA position will also be communicated to AGPN, GPNLG and other national forums.

4. **GP Buddy System**

The Board considered continuation of the GP Buddy system to link GPSA Directors with those Divisions without representation on the GPSA Board. The Board agreed that a more effective and coordinated approach to engage with Division Chairs was to convene a brief teleconference at least two weeks prior to the GPSA Board meeting to give Chairs an opportunity to discuss issues at the leadership level and to provide input into the GPSA Board agenda. The teleconference would ideally cover three key issues and last 30-45 minutes. The Communiqué from the Board meeting would then be followed up with an email from the GPSA Chair to Division Chairs.

5. **Memorandum of Understanding with the Aboriginal Health Council SA**

The Board agreed that the Memorandum of Understanding between GPSA and ACHSA (dated May 2007) be updated in view of the considerable work being done on the Closing the Gap initiative. An updated MoU would provide a platform across South Australia to develop strong partnerships between GPSA and the Divisions Network with the Aboriginal Health Council of SA and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

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6. GPSA e-Health Reference Group

The Board agreed that the GPSA e-Health Reference Group be restructured, including revised Terms of Reference, to give a clear focus to the Committee's work and a formal link to the GPSA Board and Divisions Network. GPSA will engage with key stakeholders to conduct an e-Health Forum for SA, with a view of working towards agreed strategic directions and annual work plans.

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Chair, Board of Directors

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