

Bold but consultative**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
COMMUNIQUÉ

Summary of discussion at Board Meeting, Thursday, 4 March 2010 at GPSA

Chair: Dr Mike Beckoff

1. Federal Government Report: A National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future

The Board discussed the Federal Government's recently-released Report, noting key points in the proposed Commonwealth plan for funding public hospitals. The Board noted that announcements from the Federal Government relating to Primary Care, Workforce and e-Health were still to come and, once known, would provide a greater understanding of the proposed reforms in total.

The Board noted that GPSA would put together a précis on the Report, distilling its key proposals, for distribution to and feedback from the Divisions Network, while providing an assurance to the Network that GPSA would be doing what it could to keep members fully informed.

GPSA will also develop a suggested model for SA that could be put forward during further discussions on the impact of the proposed reforms on SA.

2. Division Liaison Services – Consultation and Clinical Advisory Coordination

The Board noted that GPSA is developing a strategy to manage the process of GP consultation and placement of GP representatives on SA Health committees and workgroups, so that GPSA can link these activities with the existing consultation/feedback mechanism with the Divisions Network. It is also being considered that GPSA establish a Clinical Advisory Group, comprising GP representatives from all Divisions, to provide a formal mechanism for ongoing advice from a general practice perspective. The Clinical Advisory Group would also provide clinical input for GPSA and the Network's own needs which would increase capacity within the Network and provide the benefit of a feedback/focus group.

GPSA will provide more information and seek feedback on these initiatives once the concepts are further developed.

3. Primary Health Care Organisation Blueprint and Boundary Mapping

The Board discussed work being undertaken by AGPN and consultants relating to a possible transition to Primary Health Care Organisations, noting that the primary focus of current forward thinking should be Divisions rather than trying to have all the answers in relation to the broader structural supports around PHCOs. Being drawn into issues on the future of national and state organisations was impeding progress – it was necessary for GPSA to put out a clear message to Network members in South Australia. GPSA's message should focus on what was best for South Australia and what it did not agree with – a general message on future aims, with an emphasis on good health care and best value for money for both Divisions and the population.

4. Proposed Network Chairs Meetings

The Board noted that a Chairs' teleconference on 18 February had been well attended, with its focus to foster engagement and communication, and to remain strategic and issues-related. Future meeting dates had been set at the first meeting on 28 January (18 February, 22 April, 17 June and 19 August). Dr Mike Beckoff advised that the Chairs had welcomed this process of engagement and communication on key issues. The Board noted the process challenges with the initial implementation of the activity, and the Board agreed that a formal letter from GPSA be sent to the Network Chairs, copied to CEOs, stating that the initial meetings had gone very well and outlining the purpose of the meetings, and inviting Chairs to continue as part of the Network on an ongoing basis on the dates already set.

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5. GP Representatives Reports

The Board noted reports from representatives on various committees:

- Dr Julia Vnuk: Country Health SA: Aboriginal Family Birthing Program Steering Committee
- Dr Julia Vnuk: Country Health SA: Centre for Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Dr Michal Wozniak: SA Health Statewide Simulation Coordinating Committee
- Dr Cathy Sanders: SA Health – ICT Clinical Reference Group.

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