

AGPN Board Meeting – 18 December 2008

Via the General Practice Network Leadership Group (GPNLG), the AGPN board received division level feedback on issues raised at a state/ territory level that affect the network nationally.

The issue of workforce recruitment and retention is universally an issue across the network, as was the need to consolidate the network's work in the area of eHealth. Many states and territories expressed concern about the review environment.

All States and territories provided reports via their SBO to AGPN.

Key Issues Raised

The AGPN Board considered the reports and feedback, including recommendations for action required by the Board.

The recommendations fell into the following main categories:

1. *Policy Change environment*

All states/ territories memberships requested that AGPN continue to update the network on the review processes underway, including the deadlines for consultation and feedback. Key reviews included the Prevention taskforce discussion paper, Maternity Services review, National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission and the Primary Health Care strategy.

2. *Future funding models for the network – core funding formula review*

A recommendation that AGPN play a role in continuing the dialogue with the Department on early information out to the network on the implementation of the new funding formula for the network was noted. This findings and thus implementation of a new funding formula will affect all network members, thus the need for early information.

3. *AGPN's member engagement*

The membership expressed the view that AGPN should progress with implementation and review of a more member-friendly engagement strategy, including implementation of the solutions proposed in October 2008.

Feedback and Action taken by the AGPN Board

The following actions were agreed for implementation by the AGPN Board:

1. The Board agreed to monitor and communicate the deadlines for the number of reviews being undertaken by government. The CEO was instructed to ensure the timelines were regularly communicated to members.
2. AGPN will ensure early knowledge of any proposed changes to the Network's funding formula to members was considered and supported by the Board. AGPN's policy position will continue to be one of "no looser implementation" of a new funding formula which will continue to be expressed to key decision makers (Minister and senior Department officials) to ensure early knowledge of the outcomes, including consideration (if required) of an implementation strategy is known as soon as possible.
3. The Board has will ensure the implementation of the proposed review of AGPN consultation processes which will include the policy forums and thinktanks and mechanisms for more effective policy development. The AGPN CEO has begun this process with Divisional visit to ensure greater access to member's grass roots program successes.