

Bold but consultative

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNIQUÉ

Summary of discussion at Board Meeting, Thursday, 7 May 2009 at GPSA
Chair: Dr Mike Beckoff

1. Proposed Division Network Meetings, 6 and 7 August 2009

An AGPN Network Forum involving CEOs/Chairs from all Divisions and SBOs in Australia has been scheduled for **7 August 2009** at the Holiday Inn, Adelaide. Details will be available shortly from AGPN.

The Board agreed that a meeting of South Australian Division CEOs/ Chairs be convened the previous day, **6 August 2009**, to prepare for the national meeting by developing a position on the national reform agenda and as a follow-up to the SA Network meeting in Glenelg in 2008. The Board noted the need for GPSA to re-engage with Divisions at the strategic level, in particular with Division Chairs and Boards. A discussion forum will be set up on the GPSA website to which members of the SA Network could post topics on the national reform agenda in preparation for the meeting. Some suggested topics for discussion at the meeting on 6 August from Board members included:

- Presentation on GPSA strategic plan and restructure
- Providing leadership in the management of core funding changes
- State Government Out of Hospital strategy – an understanding of the scope and detail
- Practice Nurse initiatives and the need for more funding
- Health Reform Agenda and NHHRC Report
 - key elements in relation to the bigger picture
 - discussion on where general practice sits in relation to primary health care services as a whole
 - unique problems in SA with large peri-urban/rural areas and challenges in service delivery
 - whole of network issues: create opportunities, become proactive, develop agreed options
 - focus on a united voice, united vibrant network, common ground covering the spectrum of general practice, presentation of data – what is unique to SA but also a positive approach and of possible national relevance in leading the way
- AGPN member engagement with Divisions at the general practitioner level (not just CEOs) to improve the relationship between AGPN and Divisions.

GPSA will be issuing an invitation to the SA Network for volunteers to facilitate and contribute to the various discussion topics on the day. The Chair and CEO will develop a proposal on the SA Network meeting, including Budget for the event, and refer back to the Board for consideration. Details on the program and financial assistance available to Divisions to attend will be available shortly from GPSA.

2. PHCRIS Annual Survey of Divisions, 2007-08

The Board considered the Annual Survey of Divisions feedback for GPSA for the period 2007-08, noting the survey had identified improvements since the previous survey in 2006-07, but more improvements would be evident in the next survey with the organisational restructure and a greater focus by GPSA on delivering services and resources to Divisions where needed, rather than paralleling Divisional activity.

3. Succession Planning and Board vacancies 2009

The Board noted that the terms of office for Dr Alison Edwards, Dr Cathy Sanders, Dr Laureen Lawlor-Smith and Mr Kim Hosking expired at the 2009 AGM. The Chair will issue a communiqué to the Network on the organisation's positive approach to governance and Board succession planning, advising the Board vacancies in 2009 and whether incumbents were likely to renominate, and also seeking nominations from the Network.

4. GPSA Annual General Meeting 2009

The Board agreed that a follow-up meeting to the August Network meetings would be an appropriate activity in association with the AGM, and agreed that the AGM be rescheduled from 18 September 2009 to a later date in October, yet to be finalised. The CEO will consider the issue of timing, and refer back to the Board for consideration. Details will be provided as soon as possible.

5. Country Health SA Practice Nurse Initiative

The Board received an update on the Practice Nurse Initiative and recent discussions with Country Health SA with regard to a possible role for GPSA as a significant fund-holder for the PN Initiative as part of the CHSA Out of Hospital Strategy. GPSA is preparing a scoping document on the Initiative for submission to CHSA. Karen Dixon, CHSA, is providing a briefing to the Rural Divisions Group on the Initiative on 8 May 2009. The matter will be progressed via GPSA and the Rural Divisions Group.

Dr Mike Beckoff
Chair, Board of Directors

chair@gpsa.org.au

Gretchen Scinta
Chief Executive Officer

ceo@gpsa.org.au

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General Practice SA Inc
Level 1, 66 Greenhill Road
WAYVILLE SA 5034
p 08 8271 8988 f 08 8271 8344