

***Bold but consultative***

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**COMMUNIQUÉ**

Summary of discussion at Board Meeting, Thursday, 2 July 2009 at GPSA  
Chair: Dr Mike Beckoff

**1. Network Forum / Engagement**

The Board discussed ways to engage meaningfully and productively with the SA Divisions Network at Board level in order to gain the best strategic position and advantage for the Network and to enable GPSA to deliver on its key strategic directions. The discussion was framed within the context of an opportunity for closer engagement with members around the AGPN Network Forum on 7 August 2009.

The Board agreed to convene a Network dinner on 6 August 2009 to facilitate general discussion amongst SA Division Network Chairs and CEOs on issues identified by the National Primary Health Care Strategy and NHHRC reports and AGPN Futures Paper, and to prepare for more productive participation in the AGPN Forum the following day. A follow-up SA Divisions Network meeting will be held 4-6 weeks later in conjunction with the GPSA AGM at a date yet to be finalised in consultation with the Network.

**2. Pandemic Issues / Approach**

The Board considered GPSA's strategic position on pandemic issues and discussed how best to liaise/partner with other GP organisations, given that GPSA is not adequately resourced in this area.

The Board agreed that GPSA take a leadership role in facilitating a future meeting with the Minister for Health, The Hon John Hill, to take forward key issues in relation to pandemic planning. The Board noted that GPSA is collating Divisional activity reports around pandemic preparedness with Commonwealth funding, and that GPSA was actively pursuing the issue of State funding to support Divisional activities in this area.

**3. GPSA Board of Directors**

**a. Board Director Stipend**

The Board approved a stipend for GPSA Board Directors commencing financial year 2009-10.

**b. Board Director Code of Conduct**

The Board approved a Code of Conduct, incorporating cultural values, which will be aligned to Board evaluation.

**c. Board Succession Planning and 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, with Dr Sanders and Mr Hosking having confirmed their intention to renominate for further terms of office and, if re-elected, their willingness to continue as Vice Chair and Treasurer respectively if re-elected by the new Board.

Dr Edwards confirmed her intention to renominate for a further term of office. Dr Edwards advised that she would be renominating for the AGPN SA Director position in order to maintain the linkage between the AGPN and GPSA Boards. Dr Lawlor-Smith confirmed her intention to retire at the AGM, having considered her priorities and broader professional and personal commitments.

The Board noted that a Communiqué would be sent to the Network on Board succession planning, advising the GPSA Directors who will be renominating when a call for nominations is sent out to the Network in the near future.

**4. Future of GPSA Conference**

The CEO reported that member Divisions had advised they do not want a Divisions conference. Instead, members would prefer GPSA to apply those funds to developing a quarterly seminar series focussed on building Division capabilities, in which stakeholders and Division Board were involved as well as Division staff. The Board agreed with the CEO's recommendation that GPSA be an enabler of such events, to be incorporated into its operational activities to manage on an ongoing basis.

**5. Request for GP Representative – CHSA Better Health Care in the Community Leadership Group**

The Board noted an invitation from Country Health SA for an additional rural GP representative on the Country Health SA Better Health Care in the Community Leadership Group, and agreed that a call for nominations be distributed to Divisions as per the normal process (*Note:* closing date for nominations at GPSA is 22 July 2009).

**6. Issues for Referral to forthcoming Quarterly Meetings**

The Board noted that the following concerns would be raised at the next quarterly stakeholder meetings, as requested by Dr Georgina Moore:

- Design of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital – the need to include accommodation for country patients. This issue will be raised with State Health and at other forums.
- National Medication Chart – concern at the requirement that country doctors hand-write medication charts for greater security, and the need for an up-to-date electronic process. The Board noted that Country Health SA was trying to develop an electronic process, but that GPSA would raise the issue with CHSA at its next meeting.

**Dr Mike Beckoff**  
**Chair, Board of Directors**

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**15 July 2009**

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