



# GENERAL PRACTICE

## tasmania

### MONTHLY REPORT TO MEMBERS

july 2008

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Tessa Saunders

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Nursing in General Practice

Ange Patras

IM/eHealth Consultant

Richard Wylie

Program Coordinator Mental Health

Vacant

Office Manager

Natalie Reason

Administration Support Officer

Sally Ride

[LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER...]

#### ADVOCACY

GPT continued to liaise with the State Department of Health and Human Services and other external stakeholders in State health planning and joint initiative development.

Key areas of focus have been assisting the State in planning Integrated Care Centres and promoting to the State the need for better engagement with the general practice profession in this respect.

Meetings were also held with representatives of the Royal Guide Dogs in relation to the national Eye Health Initiative, the State's Systems Oversight Committee, a potential consultant to support the network EBA renegotiation process, a pandemic planning workshop and a meeting in Brisbane to view a new Finance and HR Management system to be purchased by our Queensland counterparts and consider the benefits of rolling this system out across the Network nationally.

GPT also attended the DoHA consultations regarding the establishment of the GP Super Clinic at Clarence.

Contact: Sarah Male

#### AGED CARE

The ACGPPI has ceased and effective from 1 July 2008 the Commonwealth has offered a new contract to GPT under the Aged Care Access Initiative.

The deliverables under this program relate to the purchase of allied health care services to support the care of residents within aged care facilities.

Recommendations have been made to the Board at the recent meeting held on the 25 July 2008 regarding the various options available for the management and implementation of the initiative.

GPT has worked up a service delivery model with the Divisions before recommending to the Board the execution of the Aged Care Access Initiative contract with DoHA.

Contact: Ange Patras

## AUSTRALIAN BETTER HEALTH INITIATIVE (ABHI)

During the period GPT continued to participate in meetings of the ABHI/State Health Plan working group under the auspice of the MoU Monitoring Group.

The emphasis for the period was in developing a Statewide ABHI workplan in consultation with Divisional ABHI contacts and submitting this as part of the annual planning and compliance requirements of DoHA.

Contact: Sarah Male / David Gardiner

## AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY CARE COLLABORATIVES PROGRAM (APCC)

The CEO liaised with the APCC Officer based at GPV to ensure the three Tasmanian Divisions were included in the Expressions of Interest process and thus able to participate in the Program if they so wished.

Both the North and North West Divisions expressed interest and allocations of practice numbers (5 and 3 respectively) have now been made to each of these Divisions by the Improvement Foundation. The restriction in the number of Tasmanian practices able to participate in the Program has significantly undermined the enthusiasm for the Program among Divisions as well as the viability of participation. Division funding is linked to the number of participating practices and GPT will be encouraging GPN and GPNW to examine opportunities for working in partnership in coordinating the program.

The GPV officer has been very helpful and professional throughout this challenging process.

Tasmanian practices will be participating in the combined Victorian/Tasmanian State wave of the APCC scheduled for October 2008. Future arrangements beyond this State wave are under review by DoHA and the Improvement Foundation.

GPT will no longer receive any funding to support Tasmanian Divisions participating in the APCC Program.

Contact: Sarah Male

## GENERAL PRACTICE IMMUNISATION INCENTIVES SCHEME (GPPII)

The SBO has collaborated with the NIGP PO to coordinate a state wide Immunisation workshop with Jo Malloy as the presenter. This was a successful workshop with over 100 participant's state wide.

During the reporting period the Immunisation Program has been handed over to Angelika Patras to be the new SBO PO. During the reporting period the newly appointed SBO PO has been orientating to the program.

Contact: Tessa Saunders

## HEALTH CHECKS

During July GPT made arrangements for "Chronic Conditions Prevention and Management" Workshop to be held in Hobart on the 11 and 12 August. This workshop will feature new Health Check Items in the context of the broader chronic disease prevention and management agenda.

We are still awaiting news on the 2008-09 contract for the Health Checks project.

Contact: Tessa Saunders

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND EHEALTH (IMEH)

General Practice Tasmania is continuing to assist the Pharmacy Guild with their HealthConnect sponsored ShareMED project. The project timelines have now been extended to March 2009 and the trial location is now proposed to be in Launceston. Updates on the progress of the ShareMED project will be provided as the project progresses.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has now engaged Deloitte Consulting to develop an E-Health Strategy for Tasmania. The consultants have 14 weeks to complete the process which, given the magnitude of the work, is a very short time-frame. Deloitte are also developing the National E-Health Strategy, so we can hopefully expect to see some strong alignment between the national and state agendas. A draft / discussion copy of the national E-Health strategy is available on the General Practice Tasmania website at the following link:  
[http://www.gptasmania.com.au/page/Resources/Information\\_Management\\_Resources](http://www.gptasmania.com.au/page/Resources/Information_Management_Resources)

The strategy will be underpinned by an implementation roadmap and a resultant DHHS action plan. Further information about the strategy and any consultants with general practice will be provided in future reports.

Work on the SECCI project continues with General Practice Tasmania having now setup a Mac testing hub to support General Practice North with the testing and implementation the Mac client. We expect to have a first version of the Mac client by mid-August from Global Health. Screen shots of current development indicate that the client build is progressing. It is expected to be ready for release to SECCI users in September.

SECCI messaging volumes still remain very low with only 7 genuine messages sent during June. Divisions have highlighted that usage and uptake has been influenced by SECCI not being a priority for practices and not enough Specialists being online to message with. In order to address this, General Practice South is concentrating on getting Specialists on board as a priority. Another contributing factor to the slower than expected uptake has been required lead times to book a session with GPs. Currently Divisions need at least 2 weeks of lead time to get access to practice for installations and then a further 2 weeks for training due to booked out GP schedules. Other issues revolve around, Medicare lead times, the complexity of multi-GP practices, and pre-installation mix-ups with Medicare or Practice Manager. Gabriel Gossage is working with Divisions to address these issues.

Richard Wylie is now participating in the technical reference group for the joint GP North / DHHS Primary Health Chronic Disease Demonstration Service that is being implemented in Launceston. This group is yet to meet, but updates will be provided as the service is implemented.

The discharge summary project is assuming a higher importance than just the DHHS rollout, with DVA now "actively" pushing the private hospitals to implement the secure messaging of discharge summaries to GPs and it is their intention to adopt the DHHS template.

Work on the finalisation of the DHHS standardised Patient Discharge Medication Record (PDMR) template and the proposed implementation plan continued during July with all Divisions being asked to provide feedback by the end of the month.

The statewide video conferencing system has now been fully implemented and is operational in all sites. There was an initial hiccup with the first board meeting to be held using the facility this was caused by a technician working for another tenant in 86 Murray Street disconnecting our service.

We will continue to monitor the performance and management of the system and will work with members to ensure any operational issues are resolved as they are identified.

Contact: Richard Wylie / Gabriel Gossage

## INFORMATION SERVICES

The 2008 Tasmanian GP Census concluded during the month and achieved a 98% response rate without the need for telephone follow-up. Preliminary results are to be released in August with further analysis to be included in the September Issue of Quarterly Indicators.

GPT continues to support other States, notably SA, Vic and Qld in their decision about whether and when to undertake the Census.

Feedback from members on the first release in June of the new *Quarterly Indicators* publication has been very positive. While the first issue was produced in-house, GPT has now retained the services of a casual employee (0.2 FTE equivalent) to support the preparation of the second issue with the view to establishing a regular process for updating key indicators.

Contact: Gabriel Gossage / Sarah Male

## MENTAL HEALTH

During the period the position of Mental Health Development and Liaison Officer was advertised across the State and interviews were held to successfully recruit Ms Lesley McBride. Ms McBride will commence full-time with GPT on 4 August. As part of her induction to the organisation and the position Ms McBride will meet the mental health program officers from each of the Divisions and the program officer from AGPN will travel to Hobart for an orientation session in mid-August.

Contact: David Gardiner

## MEDIA

The draft media strategy for the network was discussed by the Board at its meeting on 25 July and will be further developed during August.

Contact: Sarah Male

## MEDICATION MANAGEMENT REVIEW (MMR)

Contracts for HMR facilitator program for divisions for 2008-2010 have been sent out by the Pharmacy Guild to all Divisions. Contracts require each division to set three KPI % growth targets:

1. Measures of participation in the HMR Program by Individuals. (Per 10,000 population)
2. Measures of participation in the HMR program by GPs. (Item 900 claims per FTE in each Division)
3. Measure of participation in the HMR program by pharmacies. (per community pharmacies in each Division)

These targets are based on three years data to the end of 2007, based on Medicare and DoHA data for each division and are quite flexible.

Contact: Anne Todd / David Gardiner

## NURSING IN GENERAL PRACTICE (NIGP)

The SBO NIGP Program Officer is now Ms Angelika Patras.

The NIGP PO has in collaboration with the Immunisation PO coordinated a statewide Immunisation workshop which was held on 19 July.

During the reporting period the newly appointed SBO PO has been orientating to the program.

GPT and DHHS are currently in the process of finalising the delivery of a statewide education program.

Contact: Ange Patras / David Gardiner

## POLICY

On Friday, 18 July the Network Policy Group (NPG) met in Launceston. This meeting preceded the General Practice Advisory Committee of Tasmania meeting which was also held on the same day.

The NPG was able to meet with Ms Mary Bent (Deputy Secretary, DHHS) to discuss matters relating to the implementation of the State Health Plan, Integrated Care Centres and GP Super Clinics.

The NPG progressed a number of key policy areas of interest to the Network including sustainable GP workforce and integrated care centres. The next meeting of the NPG is scheduled for 9 September.

Contact: David Gardiner / Sarah Male

## ACRONYMS

ACGPPI	Aged Care GP Panel Initiative
AGPN	Australian General Practice Network
APCC	Australian Primary Care Collaboratives Program
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
EBA	Enterprise Bargaining Agreement
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GPII	General Practice Immunisation Incentives Scheme
GPN	General Practice North
GPNW	General Practice North West
GPNW	General Practice North West
GPT	General Practice Tasmania
GPV	General Practice Victoria
HMR	Home Medicines Review
IMEH	Information Management and eHealth
MMR	Medication Management Review
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPFA	Multi Program Funding Agreement
NiGP	Nursing in General Practice
NPG	Network Policy Group
PDMR	Patient Discharge Medication Record
PO	Program Officer
SBO	State Based Organisation
SECCI	Secure Electronic Clinical Communications Initiative

## DIARY DATES

### August

- 11, 12** Prevention and Management of Chronic Conditions: Divisions' Workshop
- 12** Executive Officers Meeting, Videoconf
- 21, 22** GPNLG, Canberra
- 28** GPT Finance Audit and Risk Sub Committee, Telecon

### September

- 9** Network Policy Group, Videoconf
- 11** Executive Officers Meeting, Launceston
- 26** GPT Board Meeting Videoconf