

28 February 2007

\$15m for youth mental health solutions

Today's announcement of \$15 million to help young Australians receive improved access to mental health services has been welcomed by Australia's peak body representing the 119 divisions of general practice, the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN).

The \$15 million is part of the Australian Government's \$37 million **headspace** funding which encourages local community health groups and other interested parties to join forces to help young people get the mental health care they need.

The funding has been broken down into two parts - the first is for ten large projects with grants up to \$1.5 million and the second, for 21 smaller grants totalling \$700,000.

AGPN Chair Dr Tony Hobbs said he is delighted that seven of the ten large funding grants were allocated to consortiums lead by members of divisions of general practice network.

"Today's announcement reinforces the value of the divisions network, delivering innovative health solutions at a local level. This funding will see them improve mental health care for young people in their communities.

"It also demonstrates how the network can connect with local health care providers, not-for-profits and business, education and government sectors to find solutions to benefit their communities," Dr Hobbs said.

The **headspace** initiative identifies the strong links between drug and alcohol abuse and mental health problems that so many young Australians struggle with.

One area which received a \$1.5 million grant is the NSW Central Coast region. The region has 33% youth unemployment and 38% of young people seen by GPs through the Youth GP Voucher Program indicated mental health issues, as their highest priority need.

In an effort to help young people in this area **headspace** Central Coast led by the Central Coast Division of General Practice is creating 'Y' Central - a 'one-stop-youth mental health-shop'. Young people will be able to access a range of services in one location. Services include mental health; drug and alcohol; youth health; GP's; vocational employment; training and education services; Centrelink; housing; private counsellors.

AGPN CEO Kate Carnell said the 21 grants totalling \$700,000 will allow for the development of **headspace** funding models to see more consortiums bid in the future.

"The 21 community consortiums that received between \$35,000 and \$40,000 now have an opportunity to further engage with their local communities and develop **headspace** initiatives by working with a range of community representatives.

"Local **headspace** programs will make real differences to young people in Australian communities," Ms Carnell said.

For the full list of grants please see page 2 of this release.

For more information please call AGPN CEO Kate Carnell on 0415 662 266

Large Grants Summary

Title Lead Agency Amount

- **headspace** Top End, NT Anglicare NT & Consortia \$1,500,000
- **headspace** Illawarra, NSW Illawarra Division of General Practice & Consortia \$1,500,000
- **headspace** Southern Melbourne, VIC South City Division of General Practice & Consortia \$1,500,000
- Adelaide Northern **headspace** Adelaide Northern Division of General Practice & Consortia \$1,098,802
- **headspace** Macarthur, Campbelltown & Southern Highlands, NSW Brain & Mind Research Institute & Consortia \$1,430,000
- Barwon **headspace**, VIC General Practice Association Geelong & Consortia \$1,500,000
- **headspace** Mid-North Coast , NSW Nambucca Valley Youth Services Centre & Consortia \$1,500,000
- Great Southern **headspace**, WA Great Southern Division of General Practice & Consortia \$1,371,524
- **headspace** Central Coast, NSW Central Coast Division of General Practice \$1,500,000
- Western Melbourne **headspace**, VIC ORYGEN Research Centre & Consortia \$1,500,000

Small Grant Summary

Lead Agency Amount

- Anglicare Canberra & Goulburn, ACT \$35,000
- Brisbane Youth Service, QLD \$35,000
- South East Alliance of General Practice (Brisbane) Ltd & Consortia, QLD \$35,000
- Brophy Family and Youth Services & Consortia, VIC \$40,000
- Capricornia Division of General Practice & Consortia, QLD \$38,000
- Central Sydney Division of General Practice & Consortia, NSW \$40,000
- NSW Central West Division of General Practice Inc & Consortia, NSW \$40,000
- Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice, VIC \$35,000
- Eastern Goldfields Medical Division of General Practice & Consortia, WA \$40,000
- Family Planning Association of Western Australia Inc & Consortia, WA \$40,000
- Goulburn Valley Division of General Practice Ltd & Consortia, VIC \$35,000
- Greater Bunbury Division of General Practice Inc & Consortia, WA \$35,000
- Limestone Coast Division of General Practice & Consortia, SA \$35,000
- Discipline of Psychiatry (University of Tasmania) & Consortia, TAS \$35,000
- Mornington Peninsula Division of General Practice & Consortia, VIC \$40,000
- The Rural City of Murray Bridge & Consortia, SA \$35,000
- Northern Sydney Division of General Practice Inc & Consortia, NSW \$35,000
- Division of General Practice Northern Tasmania Inc & Consortia, TAS \$35,000
- Southern QLD Rural Division of General Practice Assn Inc & Consortia, QLD \$40,000
- Riverina Division of General Practice and Primary Health Ltd & Consortia, NSW \$35,000
- Youth Focus Inc & Consortia, WA \$35,000