



Primary Source Medicare Locals - Transition

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From the Transition Team's Terry Findlay

Representatives from the first 19 Medicare Locals met at Parliament House in August. The meeting was launched by the [Prime Minister Julia Gillard](#) and the Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon. The Forum included [videos](#) showcasing a sample of the first 19 Medicare Locals which are progressively delivering on the Federal Government's primary health care reforms.

This marked a significant moment in the health reform process and in particular the transition from Divisions to Medicare Locals.

The first tranche of Medicare Locals were able to demonstrate the significant steps they have taken and a thorough understanding and commitment to the objectives of the reforms. Discussions with representatives of DoHA about the key priorities for after hours and mental health were characterised by an emerging and flexible partnership based on shared objectives.

The Transition Team has a new member, Emma Whitehead, Organisation Development Adviser. Emma's initial focus will be to pilot the needs assessment framework with the tranche 1 Medicare Locals which is discussed below.

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As ever the Transition team are keen to hear from Network members' views on priorities for transition support. We can be contacted via email: transition@agpn.com.au.





Medicare Local representatives and delegates at the Federal Government's Medicare Local Forum August, Old Parliament House Canberra 2011

Medicare Local, Connecting health to meet local needs

The [new look and new approach](#) to primary health care through Medicare Locals is now underway following the August Parliamentary Forum.

AGPN Chair, Dr Emil Djakic said the development of this brand has been a significant achievement for AGPN and the Network, a process which was driven by the industry and stakeholders. "Brand consistency is fundamental to streamlining services and making sense of where and how Australia's primary health care system operates in the bigger picture of health services in this country," Dr Djakic said.

Information about the [interim branding guidelines](#) is on AGPN's transition webpage.



Collaboration: linking services and sectors for better health care

Organised: a planned and coordinated approach to regional health care solutions

Systems oriented: part of a national network for delivering better primary health care

Infrastructure: ensuring the building blocks for a strong primary health care system are in place

Seamless: ensuring the path to navigate the primary health care system is simplified and easy to use.

It's about the right health care professional, at the right time, at the right place.

Trisha Wong AGPN's Marketing and Events Manager is the person to speak to about applying the brand guidelines to your business materials. If you have any questions about technical aspects to do with colour,

placement, size etc Trisha is the person to contact: twong@agpn.com.au (02) 6228 0835.

For information regarding Medicare Local branding policy and compliance please contact:

Michelle Wright, Assistant Director, Medicare Locals, Department of Health and Ageing

medicarelocals@health.gov.au (02) 6289 4188.

Medicare Local Tranche 2 & 3

A formal announcement by DoHA is expected in October.

Medicare Local Readiness assessment

Once established, Medicare Locals [MLs] face the challenge of planning and then implementing, robust plans and strategies that deliver on the DoHA's objectives. To successfully achieve these objectives, MLs will have to call upon specific organisational capabilities.

To support this, AGPN has developed a capability framework which draws from DOHA's evaluation criteria and objectives for Medicare Locals, as well as leading practice in organisational transition capabilities. To inform the priorities of this framework and to test it, AGPN is working with a sample of tranche 1 MLs to assess their capability needs and to focus support in a way that is valued and useful for MLs.

The capability needs assessment pilot has three steps:

- self-assessment by the ML using a simple questionnaire
- developing further understanding of ML objectives and approaches by reviewing ITA or other strategic plans
- a face to face working session, to review ML capability and development needs and preferences.

It is envisaged that an analysis against the five draft capability domains will identify capability gaps and enable planning to appropriately develop organisational capabilities within specific timeframes.

The draft domains include:

- structure and governance
- leadership and engagement
- management and business
- service planning and delivery
- transition and change management

Once completed, planning capability needs should be a lot simpler and timeframes will be manageable for ML to meet their objectives. The outcomes of this exercise should also help the Transition team and ultimately the new National Organisation to better identify priorities ahead.

The pilot capability needs assessment and framework documentation can be found here [Readiness Needs Assessment](#)

Health Prevention Roundtable

AGPN and the Australian National Prevention Agency hosted a roundtable on 30 August with Departmental representatives, Medicare Locals and academia to discuss the scope and potential role of MLs in health promotion and prevention. The Transition team will use the outcomes of these discussions to develop a toolkit for MLs to support them in responding to this objective. Look out for our November edition of Network Connect magazine which features an article on this roundtable.

\$5.77 million for preventive health research grants

Researchers across Australia are invited to apply for up to \$5.77 million of funding to investigate new and innovative ways to combat alcohol abuse, obesity and smoking.

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon said the new grants provide an opportunity for further research and innovation in supporting Australians to lead healthier lifestyles.

“Research and innovation are key drivers in delivering better health outcomes for Australians,” Ms Roxon said.

“With rising rates of chronic disease there has never been a more important time to pursue new and innovative ways to combat preventative diseases,” the Minister said.

“The Gillard Government wants to keep Australians healthy and out of hospital which is why we have invested \$872 million in health promotion, the largest commitment to preventative health any Australian Government has ever made.

The Australian National Preventive Health Agency [ANPHA] is offering the research funding under the new National Preventive Health Research Grants Program.

Information about how to apply, including application templates and guidelines are available on the ANPHA website at www.anpha.gov.au. Applications must be received by 2pm AEST **Friday 30 September**.

Contract Novation

AGPN has commissioned some generic [advice](#) for Divisions and ML regarding the assignment or novation of contracts.

Clinical Governance

The Working Party has undertaken an environmental scan which is being used as part of a needs analysis and opportunity to identify gaps, which will then be placed in priority order. The Working Party will then work to produce tools and materials to address these gaps. These tools will be launched at the Clinical Governance workshop being planned for late October. More details will be made available soon.

Facilitation

AGPN continues to offer access to a range of people who are able to offer independent assistance to organisations requiring [Facilitation/mediation services](#). Please contact the transition team or your local SBO transition support officer if you wish to use this service.

EAP/career counselling

The Transition Team and SBO Field Support staff has discussed the extent to which organisations have existing Employee Assistance schemes and career counselling arrangements in place. It seems that coverage is ad hoc. Consequently we have made enquiries to a nationally recognised provider of EAP and career counselling services about the possibility of providing such services as a safety net for those who do not have existing arrangements. We will advise Divisions and Medicare Locals of any arrangements following our discussion.

Organisational Profiles

The Transition team is currently drafting data sets for Medicare Local organisation profiles and will be testing these with first tranche MLs in the near future.

AGPN Population Health Planning Master Class – Accommodation extended until 12 September

[Thursday 29 and Friday 30 September](#)

[Citigate King George Square, Brisbane](#)

This Master Class is the final Master Class for 2011 for Network members and stakeholders.

This *Needs driven solutions* Master Class is concerned with one of the **key areas in which Medicare Locals will be expected to deliver** and has been tailored to the Medicare Local and general practice network environment. It is being facilitated by **Professor Vivian Lin from Latrobe University**, a widely recognised expert in population health, with co-facilitation by experts at the Research Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity and from Ms Carla Cranny who collectively will bring equity and planning perspectives to the issue of population health.

The Master Class will lead delegates through a big picture overview of population health and various theoretical frameworks to looking at the practical application of the planning cycle to population health.

It will provide delegates with a range of population health tools, tips and methods and offer delegates plenty of opportunities to apply population health approaches to the Medicare Local context and potential real life in Medicare Local scenarios. The Class will also help delegates understand how to apply equity principles to population health, and to understand where and how population health and health service design fit together. This Master Class will be of interest to CEOs, health program managers and clinical leaders. We would particularly encourage delegates who attend the Health Service Development Master Class this week to also attend the Population Health Planning event to gain a comprehensive understanding of how these two key elements of

Medicare Local functions fit together.

To register, please go the events pages on AGPN's website: <http://www.agpn.com.au/about-us/agpn-events>.

Accommodation has been extended until Monday 12 September unless sold out prior. Accommodation can be booked through the online registration form.

Stakeholder Information Sheets

AGPN is in the final stages of its stakeholder information sheets for consumers, allied health advocates, GPs and peak health bodies. Shortly the information sheets will be available on AGPN's website. We'll keep you posted.

Update Population Health Atlas data

The Population Health Information Development Unit have published updated versions of the Medicare Locals Population Health Atlas 2011 which can be found on [Medicare Locals Population Health Atlas 2011](#)

Nominations now CLOSED for HESTA PHC Awards

AGPN and HESTA wish to thank the many individuals and organisations that participated in nominating colleagues for the [HESTA Primary Health Care Awards](#) for 2011 and look forward to promoting the finalists very soon.

HESTA in conjunction with AGPN created these awards to mark excellence in primary health care.



ME Bank has provided \$30,000 in prize money for the awards

Finalists will be flown to the:

**HESTA Primary Health Care awards dinner at AGPN's National Forum on
Wednesday 16 November**



Primary Source: subscription

AGPN produces a number of e-bulletins under the banner of Primary Source. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving Primary Source send them to [AGPN's subscription page](#) for:

- Medicare Locals – Transition
- Immunisation

- eHealth
- Nursing in General Practice
- Close the Gap
- Chronic Disease Management
- Mental Health
- Quality Use of Medicines
- Coordinated Veterans' Care Program
- Events

Visitors can also subscribe to AGPN's media releases and its quarterly magazine, [Network Connect](#).

Medicare Locals - Transition editor:

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[Karen Warner, AGPN Media Adviser](#)

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25 National Circuit Forrest ACT 2603 | PO Box 4308 Manuka ACT 2603
T 02 6228 0800 | F 02 6228 0899 | www.agpn.com.au | ABN 95 082 812 146

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