



The Royal Australian
College of General
Practitioners



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RACGP and AGPN to collaborate on e-health agenda

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) have today announced their commitment to collaborate on e-health reform in order to ensure a smooth transition and implementation of e-health in the critically important primary healthcare sector and improve the health of all people in Australia.

RACGP President Professor Claire Jackson said that the College has recognised in the past the benefits of collaboration with the GP Network on many initiatives. She highlighted that current e-health developments, such as the personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR), provide a unique opportunity for the two organisations to work together for the benefit of patients, general practice and Australian communities.

“General practice is the cornerstone of the healthcare system, with 83 percent of the Australian population consulting a GP at least once a year. The ongoing relationship between a patient and their GP is at the heart of high quality healthcare. The first person a patient will consult regarding the PCEHR will be their GP,” Professor Jackson said.

AGPN Chair Dr Emil Djakic stated that collaboration between these two peak GP organisations will ensure that patients and their primary healthcare givers have access to resources, education and tools to deliver the diverse changes in general practice that will be required in the years to come.

“Working together on e-health will enable us to engage more organisations and associations to build the framework for the adoption of primary healthcare e-health in Australia.

“The RACGP and AGPN are in a position to strategically design the quality of work expected within the e-health agenda and by collaborating on the design, implementation and management of e-health programs we can minimise duplication of resources and services.

“The RACGP and AGPN are also positioned very well to manage the change and adoption opportunities that exist around the e-health agenda in support of the development of Medicare Locals and to liaise with governments to improve access to high quality care that will evolve from this e-health process.

“With the RACGP and AGPN united on e-health, GPs across the country will be confident about the leadership and direction that will be undertaken for the significant task ahead.

“The RACGP and AGPN are now inviting other organisations to engage with them on how they can also be part of this strategic collaboration,” Dr Djakic said.

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About the RACGP

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is Australia's largest professional general practice organisation and represents urban and rural general practitioners. We represent over 20,000 members working in or towards a career in general practice and are proud that over 18,000 general practitioners in Australia have chosen to be a member of the College. There are over 125 million general practice consultations taking place annually in Australia. Visit www.racgp.org.au.

About the AGPN

AGPN represents the network of 111 general practice networks which cover the country as well as eight state based entities. More than 90 percent of General Practitioners (GPs) and an increasing number of Practice Nurses and allied health professionals are members of their local general practice network. The Network is involved in a wide range of activities focused on improving the health of the Australian community including health promotion, early intervention and prevention strategies, health service development, chronic disease management, medical education and workforce support.

AGPN aims to ensure Australians have access to an accessible, high quality health system by delivering local health solutions through general practice.