



28 June, 2011

Primary health care leader moving on to continue the delivery of PHC reforms

The Australian General Practice Network [AGPN] will start an immediate search for a new CEO following the announcement of the resignation of current CEO David Butt.

AGPN Chair Dr Emil Djakic said today that it would be 'business as usual' for AGPN – "as far as you can have business as usual in the middle of comprehensive primary health care reform."

Mr Butt is leaving to take up a role as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Health and Ageing.

"I do understand and appreciate his decision to move on at this stage and view this as an opportunity for primary health care reform in this country," Dr Djakic said.

"In the meantime, recruitment of a replacement will not be disruptive for AGPN because our strategic direction is set and we will continue to pursue our agenda in accordance with that strategy.

"Mr Butt leaves with our thanks and congratulations for his positive and progressive contribution at AGPN over the past three years.

"His stewardship of the Network throughout this reform period has been a remarkable achievement.

"As CEO of AGPN, Mr Butt has delivered the Board's strategy during this reform process to develop and implement Medicare Locals, Australia's new system for primary health care.

"He has been instrumental in bringing together the Network to realise the potential for general practice and the broader primary health care system through the primary health care reforms.

"Having his capacity in the Department at Deputy Secretary level, someone who has such a good understanding of our network and the primary health care sector as we move into the implementation of these reforms, will work well for not just the Network but the broader Australian community.

"AGPN and its Division and Network members look forward to an ongoing productive and successful relationship with the Department as each entity works towards delivering a new primary health care environment for general practice, primary health care and patients" Dr Djakic said.

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