



Primary Source

Medicare Locals - Transition

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From the Transition Team's Terry Findlay

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The AGPN Board is pleased to announce **Leanne Wells**, AGPN's Executive Director Policy & Business Development has been offered the position of **Acting CEO for AGPN**.

Leanne has been with AGPN for nine years and has worked in executive roles in both the government and non-government sectors. As announced earlier this week, CEO David Butt's last day is today before he takes up a position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing in August. We wish David all the best.



Call for abstracts go to:

[Australian General Practice Network \(AGPN\) - Forum Program](#)

[Click here to view the events calendar.](#)

National Stakeholder Roundtable

The roundtable event for national peak and professional bodies was held on 29 June 2011 in Canberra and 104 organisations were represented. The purpose of the event was to inform national organisations about the progress of ML implementation, identify the benefits for both National organisations and MLs in becoming engaged in this process and to share ideas about how this may be achieved. Key findings from the day included:

- More information about the design, function and opportunities for engagement is required to enable stakeholders to understand and engage with organisations at an appropriate structural level – AGPN is working to ensure that this information is made available
- There is an absolute need for across the board and ongoing leadership training for organisations to equip their



Ms Donna Ah Chee, CEO NACCHO

members to engage with Medicare Locals – AGPN is developing a proposal with the National Primary Health Care Partnership (see below)

- There is a need to manage expectations and ensure accountability and transparency.

Clinical Governance Framework

A session led by Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite on next steps to build materials to support the Clinical Governance Framework, was held during the Governance Master Class in June. A small working party is now being established, involving the first tranche of MLs to inform this development work. The first part of this work will be to undertake an environmental scan of materials already available to Medicare Locals and determine what gaps may exist to support the particular needs of primary health care organisations. From this gap analysis, tools, templates and products will be drafted to be reviewed by the network and a final Clinical Governance Workshop will be held in the Spring

Medicare Locals *en message*

AGPN has produced an overview of the print media's treatment of Medicare Locals between March and June this year. The analysis was drawn from 118 articles supplied by Media Monitors.

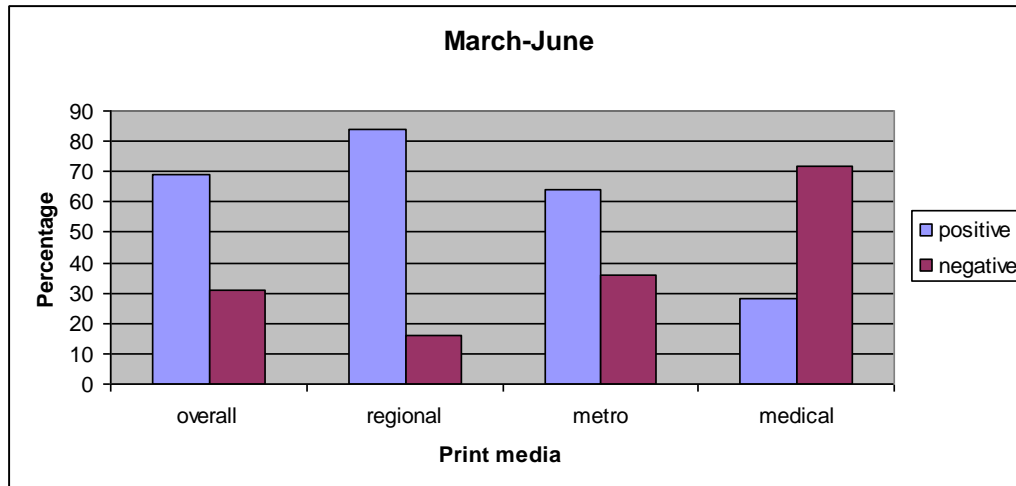
Overall the Network played a part in pursuing many of the positive messages about Medicare Locals through its connections with the local, regional media.

With headlines like *Meeting local needs, Locals helping locals to achieve better health care and Medicare Local will boost care*, it's clear the rural and regional areas of Australia have been fed on an editorial diet of good news stories about the future of primary health care in their regions.

The metropolitan newspapers tended to be positive as well, but interestingly Medicare Locals didn't even rate a mention in the metros in May.

However, it was fairly clear that the controversial and negative stories about Medicare Locals could be found in the industry magazines, Australian Doctor and Medical Observer.

To read more, subscribe to AGPN's Network Connect magazine. The August edition features the article *Medicare Locals, en message*.



Medicare Local/Local Hospital Network Joint Policy Paper

The relationship between MLs and LHNs will be critical to the achievement of the national health reforms in both primary care and acute care. Some relationships have been established in the guidelines such as shared performance indicators and cross membership on governance committees.

Local Clinician Groups will comprise clinicians from across the health services and will inform service redesign and integration of services. These groups will be jointly accountable to both MLs and LHNs.

There is clearly much more to be done to develop practical methods to build this critical relationship. AGPN has teamed up with the Australian Health and Hospital Association [AHHA] to produce a joint policy paper that will cover a discussion on the various models of integrated health care and the critical enablers required for successful integration between the primary and acute sectors. Discussions are underway about jointly holding a series of workshops that will bring together representatives of MLs and LHNs later in the year.

Enabling engagement in Medicare Locals

The capacity for service users, community members and professionals to effectively engage with Medicare Locals does not just happen. Processes and mechanisms are required but they also require skills and knowledge to make an effective contribution. The Consumers Health Forum is running a program to develop the capacity of consumers to contribute to Medicare Locals, and General Practice Networks have invested heavily over the years to support the involvement of General Practitioners.

It is now essential that this capacity building work be extended to the broader primary health care provider community. Stakeholder feedback has indicated the ambiguity and confusion that many allied health, nursing, pharmacy and the like still hold around where exactly they fit into the Medicare Locals picture, and how exactly they can best engage in the reform agenda. In response to this, AGPN is working collaboratively with the National Primary Health Care Partnership in developing a proposal for Government to support a number of governance and

leadership workshops, considered essential in developing the skills and capacity needed to make effective and meaningful contributions to the primary health care reform process.

Medicare Local Boundaries

The updated boundaries have now been published on [yourhealth](#) website and it includes digital maps

Organisational Development Adviser

Following the resignation of Jan Ridd as the Senior Project Officer in the Transition team a review of roles was conducted. Transition support needs change as we move from the ITA application process to the early phases of implementation. As a result recruitment has taken place for an OD Advisor who will focus on:

- Organisational assessment/diagnostic and design
- Team and leadership development
- Performance and capability

Health Service Development/Models of Care Master Class – registrations now open

[Wednesday 17 August and Thursday 18 August](#)
[Citigate King George Square, Brisbane](#)

AGPN is pleased to offer Network members a [Master Class](#) focusing on developing the skills on how to collect, measure and analyse the evidence to inform health service design and how to take the systematic steps needed to re-design a service to meet specific needs.

A key function of Medicare Locals is to take responsibility and provide for the health needs of respective populations. This requires that population needs must be understood – but what do you measure? How do you analyse the information? What's the priority going to be? As part of this responsibility, Medicare Locals will plan, purchase and, in some circumstances, provide direct services. Ultimately this requires an evidence-based understanding of how to design and develop services in a primary health care environment that responds to the needs of the local population.

The program will be available in the week commencing 11 July and will include topics such as:

- Population health planning frameworks including needs assessments, service and provider mapping and consultation
- Techniques for ensuring service redesign is informed by the patient voice
- The role of clinical networks in service redesign and how to support and strengthen clinical leadership
- Changing service cultures

Funder purchase provider models

Sample Company Objects

Some Medicare Local applicants have already received charity status from the Australian Taxation Office [ATO]. [Sample company objects](#) from these organisations are available at AGPN's Transition website.

Nominations open for the National Primary Health Care Awards

Australia's primary health service providers will now be able to achieve well earned recognition and rewards for outstanding performance through the inaugural [HESTA Primary Health Care Awards](#).

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 which will culminate in an awards dinner at the AGPN's National Forum on Wednesday 16 November, to which finalists will be flown.

HESTA CEO Ms Anne-Marie Corboy said the awards were designed to recognise innovation and leadership.

"These are two fundamental elements of a skilled and responsive health workforce," Ms Corboy said.

AGPN CEO David Butt said the awards were timely in light of the incredible health reform agenda facing this sector.

"These awards recognise the role of all those who are usually the first the community turns to when they are sick or injured," Mr Butt said.

There are three categories for nominations:

Young leader

Individual distinction

Team excellence

Nominations can be made online at <http://www.phcawards.com.au/>

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

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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