



Rural Palliative Care Project

Governance Structure

april 2008

Delivering local health solutions through general practice

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Background

The Australian General Practice Network Ltd (AGPN) is a national Canberra based organisation established in 1998 to support 115 Divisions of General Practice and 8 state based organisations throughout Australia.

The Rural Palliative Care (RPC) Project 2008-2010 aims to build on the evidence-base arising from the RPC 2003-2006 pilot program. The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (the Department) has contracted the Australian General Practice Network Ltd (AGPN) - formerly the Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd to manage the RPC Project. The RPC Project is implementing models of care that translate the National Palliative Care Strategy into integrated services that work for rural Australia. In particular, it seeks to demonstrate that enhanced access to an integrated palliative care service for terminally ill people, their carers and families is essential within a rural context.

The RPC Project therefore aims to extend the expertise of the RPC pilot program to 36 other settings nationwide over a two and half-year period, and will use what has been learned to date to guide implementation.

Project governance framework

The framework for managing the governance of the RPC Project is illustrated in Diagram 1 below

Diagram 1: RPC Project governance framework

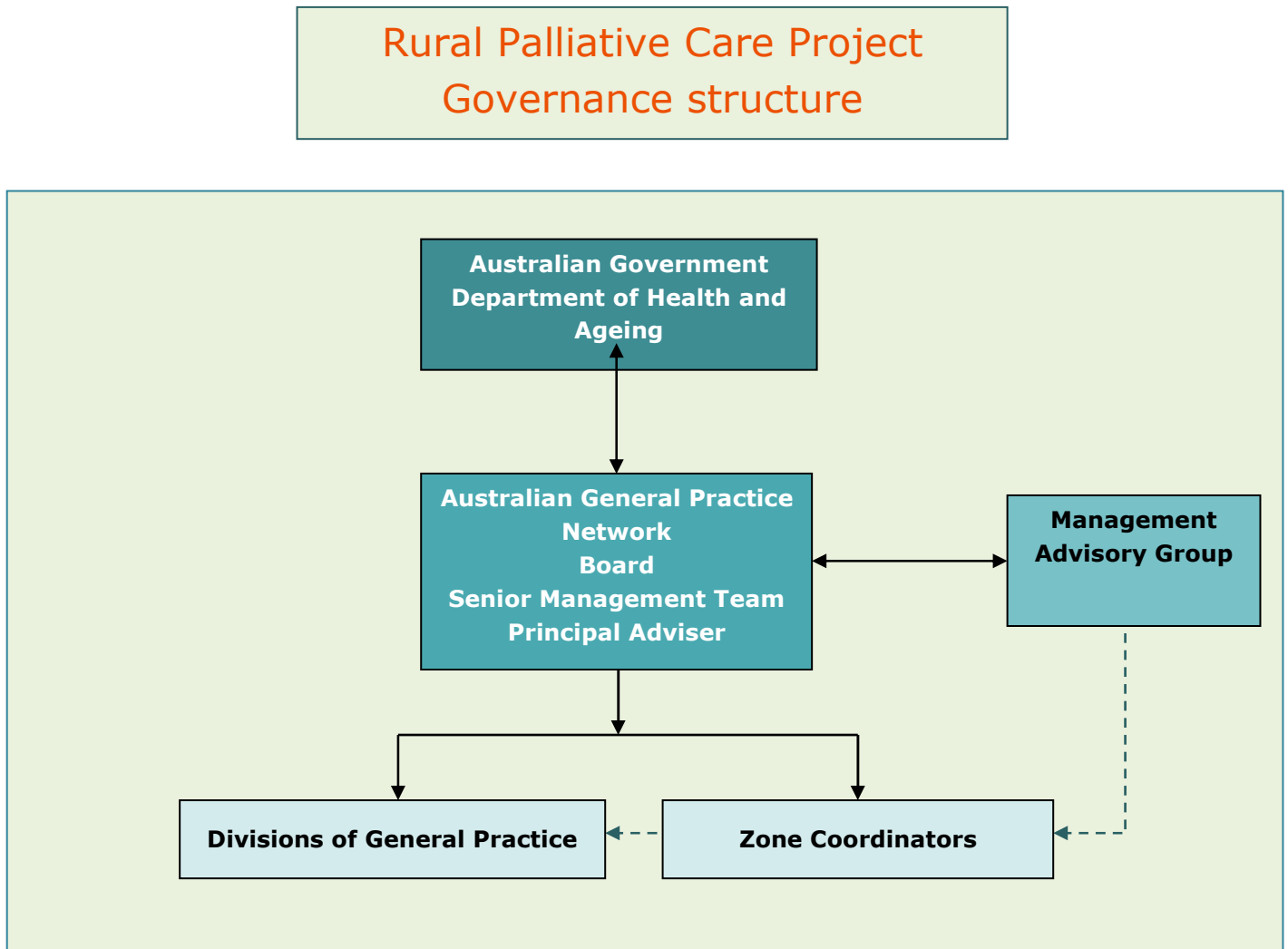
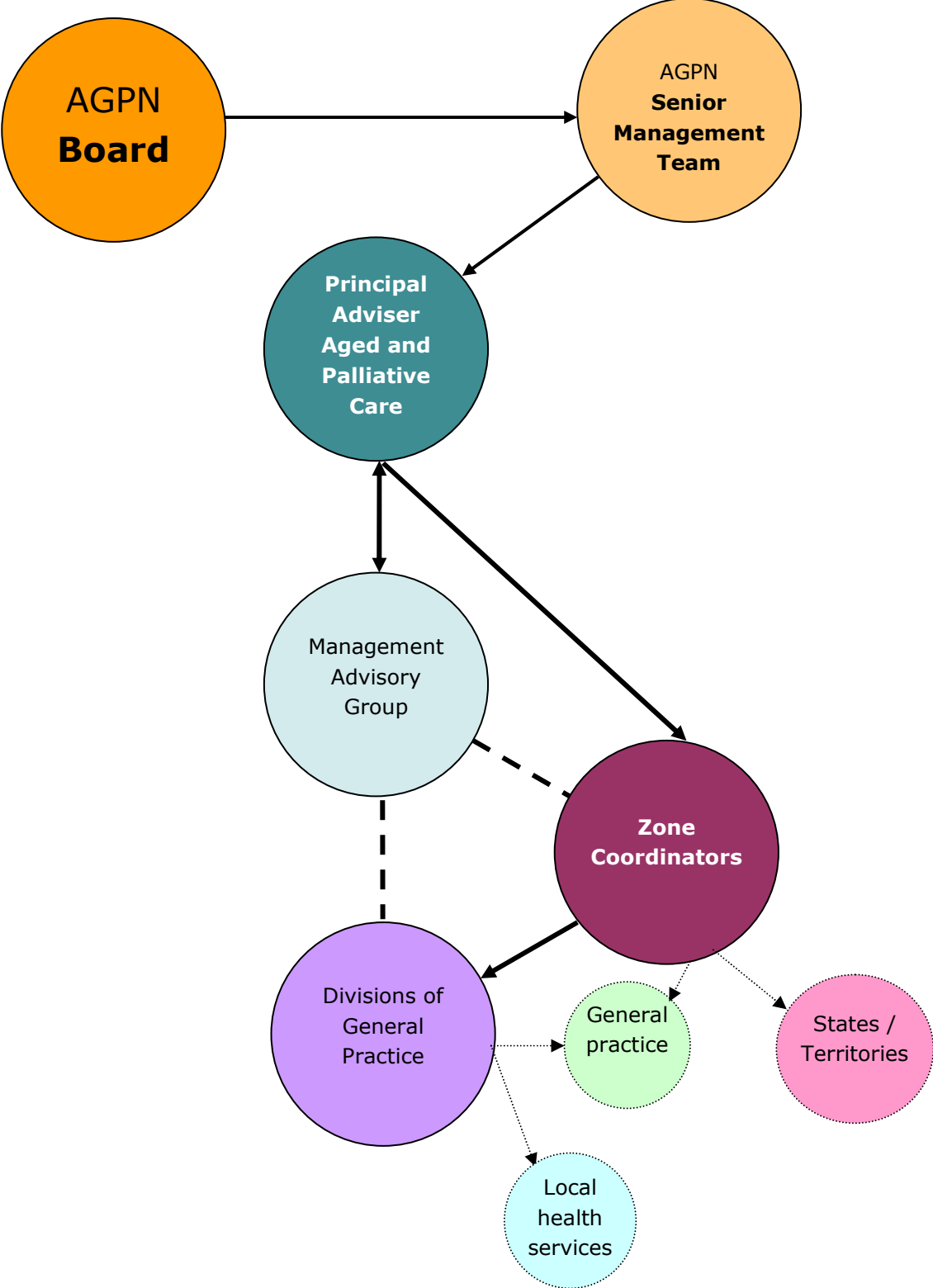


Diagram 2: RPCP project management framework

Rural Palliative Care Project

Roles and Responsibilities



Project management

The role of the RPC Project Management Advisory Group are detailed in separate terms of reference.

Principal Adviser

Key responsibilities of the Principal Adviser include:

- providing support and leadership to all participants of the Rural Palliative Care Project
- identifying, developing and maintaining relationships with all relevant palliative care stakeholders
- providing constructive and evidence-based advice to the key decision makers on current and future (rural) palliative care initiatives
- representing AGPN on relevant palliative care committees and at national forums
- carrying out project activities in a manner that progresses the aims, objectives and program outcomes for the Rural Palliative Care Project as set out in the Contract of Agreement and the National Palliative Care Strategy
- ensuring the Rural Palliative Care Project is implemented according to contractual requirements between AGPN and the Department.

Zone Coordinators

Key responsibilities of the Zone Coordinators include:

- provide support and guidance to the participating rural divisions of general practice in achieving the aims of the Rural Palliative Care Framework. This includes:
 - working collaboratively with the Principal Adviser to develop a network that will effectively deliver the aims of the framework, particularly in regard to access and quality
 - working with assigned divisions (not exceeding twelve in any wave) to provide intensive targeted support for those Divisions experiencing difficulties, including working collaboratively with state jurisdictions, and general practice
 - promoting best practice models of rural palliative care delivery in divisions of general practice
 - supporting evaluation through appropriate measurement and collection of data
 - assist participating divisions of general practice to set priorities to deliver effective outcomes
 - coordinate and support a regional rural palliative care network
 - collate and analysis the reports from the regional rural palliative care network for further dissemination to the Principal Adviser.