



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Memorandum of Understanding between

Australian General Practice Network Ltd

and

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

2008 – 2010



Memorandum of Understanding

Background

The good health of all Australians depends on good primary health care.

The General Practitioner and Community Pharmacist work together as two important components of the wider primary health care team, with the aim of ensuring the best possible patient care.

Through local general practices and the community pharmacy, the GP and Community Pharmacist deliver daily care and health advice to millions of Australians. The GP and Community Pharmacist are highly trusted and the most often consulted professions when Australians are seeking help with their health.

Respectively, the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA) represent nationwide networks of 111 local General Practice Network Organisations, 8 State Based Organisations and over 4000 Community Pharmacies.

Good primary health care depends on many people, businesses, institutions and systems working together with the health consumer at the centre.

The AGPN and the PGA share a successful history of collaboration on quality use of medicine programs including the joint Medication Management Review Facilitator program.

The AGPN and the PGA are forging this Memorandum of Understanding to continue and strengthen collaboration between the organisations and between general practice and community pharmacy so that Australians receive the best primary health care possible.

Partnership

AGPN

- recognises the PGA as the national peak organisation coordinating the development and strategic direction of Community Pharmacy
- recognises the role of Community Pharmacy in providing health care and advice to Australians
- supports the development of the role of Community Pharmacy as leaders in quality primary health care

PGA

- recognises the AGPN as the national peak organisation coordinating the development and strategic direction of the General Practice Network
- recognises the role of local General Practice Network organisations and their State Based Organisations to provide support to general practices, their doctors and staff
- supports the development of the role of the General Practice Network as leaders in quality primary health care

AGPN and PGA

- recognise that primary health care is enhanced when health professionals adopt a multi-disciplinary and team approach to care planning and delivery
- recognise the General Practice - Community Pharmacy relationship is a vital component in a primary health care team approach
- recognise that General Practice and Community Pharmacy are influenced by wider systems including quality use of medicine initiatives and policies
- commit to working together to improve and develop the primary health care sector and its systems in regard to General Practice and Community Pharmacy for the benefit of all Australians

Principles

The AGPN and the PGA (the partners) affirm the following principles:

The primary health care of Australians is a national priority

The partners will work together to improve health outcomes for the whole community and to influence persons, institutions and governments for the improvement of health care systems.

General practice and the General Practice Network are central in the primary health care of Australians

The partners affirm the expertise of general practice in the diagnosis and management of illness and the prescribing of care including medications. The partners affirm the role of the General Practice Network in assisting both general practice and community pharmacy at a local level.

Community pharmacy and the PGA are central in the primary health care of Australians

The partners affirm the expertise of community pharmacy in the supply of medications with appropriate checking, consumer advice, and review of medication management and planning. The partners affirm the role of the PGA in assisting community pharmacies realise their full potential in the delivery of services to assist GPs and their patients in improving their health, including assisting the patient in monitoring and self management of their condition.

Collaboration between general practice and community pharmacy is critical to the primary health care of Australians

The partners recognise that most consumers view general practice and community pharmacy as two of the key providers of primary health care and expect cooperation and coordination between the professions. The partners will work together to improve collaboration between general practice, community pharmacy and their consumers, especially in relation to the quality use of medicine and the primary health care of their consumers.

Cooperation between the AGPN and the PGA will enhance the primary care of Australians

The partners recognise the role of each other in supporting their respective profession and will work together to improve communication, understanding and cooperation between the two professions at the local level, as well as through the General Practice Network and national, state and local structures of the PGA. Where possible and appropriate the partners will consult or inform each other on significant actions or policy formulation of interest to the other partner.

The Agreement

This Memorandum commits the AGPN and the PGA to work together for a period of three years in the following key areas:

Medication Management Review Programs

The partners will work together to support existing and future initiatives such as Home Medicine Reviews and Residential Medication Management Reviews wherein GPs and community pharmacists collaborate on the review of medication management.

The partners will work together to improve and strengthen the Medication Management Review Facilitator program which provides resources to the General Practice Network to support GP and community pharmacist collaboration.

Quality use of medicines

The partners support the National Medicines Policy including the National Strategy for the Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) and will work together to explore possible areas of mutual interest in the delivery or enhancement of QUM services and initiatives.

The partners assert the general practice and community pharmacy relationship as a key and under-utilised mechanism for the delivery of QUM services and initiatives and will work together to enhance the role of both professions in the quality use of medicines.

Professional Development

The partners affirm the value of multi-disciplinary delivery of primary health care and will work together to develop mutual initiatives for the enhancement of each profession within the context of collaborative service delivery.

The partners affirm that both professions share not only the delivery of important primary health care, but being small business operators in a commercial context.

The partners will explore areas of mutual and patient/consumer interest and will work collaboratively to influence persons, institutions and governments for the improvement of the professions, their business and the health care and business systems affecting them.

Implementation

The Board of the AGPN and the Council of the PGA or their representatives will meet together once a year to evaluate and review progress of the Memorandum.

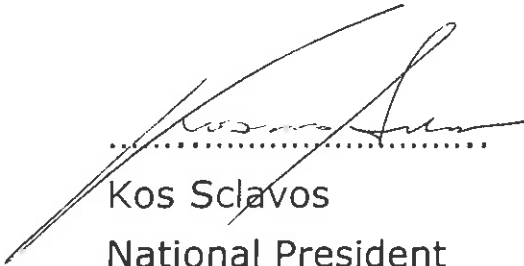
Senior staff of the AGPN and the PGA will meet or teleconference two times a year to progress implementation of the Memorandum.

A review process of the Memorandum and its progress will begin six months and report three months prior to its expiration.

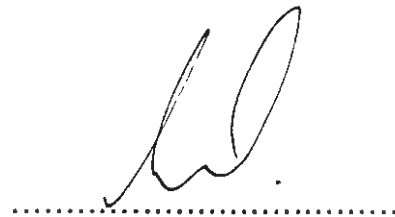
The partners will undertake to communicate progress of the Memorandum with their respective members.

Signed on behalf of the Guild

Signed on behalf of AGPN



Kos Sclavos
National President
The Pharmacy Guild
of Australia



Dr Emil Djacic
Chairperson
Australian General Practice
Network Ltd.

Date: 26 November 2008

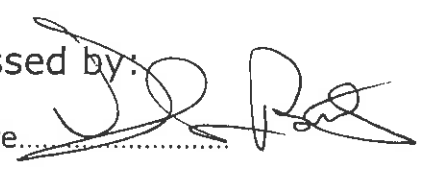
Date: 26 November 2008

Witnessed by:

Signature.....

Print Name.....WENDY PHILLIPS

Witnessed by:

Signature.....

Print Name.....DAVID BUTT

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