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## **AGPN supports national roll out for successful positive parenting program**

The call for a national roll out of parenting intervention programs through general practice received a boost today with the release of a US study indicating they significantly reduced the incidence of child abuse.

The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) has welcomed the research, which added weight to earlier calls to Government to roll out the Every Family program across Australia.

Every Family, developed and trialed the University of Queensland's Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) in Queensland, through Divisions of General Practice.

Research funded by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention at the University of South Carolina has shown for every 100,000 children under the age of eight, the results could translate into 688 fewer cases of child maltreatment annually.

"The divisions network has been involved the trials and development of the Every Family program and studies like this one show just how much of an impact general practice can make in supporting families, especially in difficult financial times," said AGPN CEO Mr David Butt.

The AGPN submission to the National Preventative Health Taskforce reiterated the need for a national program rolled out by the Divisions network and called for support of the evidence-based parenting initiative.

"This program proved to be beneficial in helping both parents and children avoid depression and anxiety. General practice, with the support of their local divisions could contribute considerably to helping families cope with parenting stress," Mr Butt said.

Figures from the United States study indicated that of 100,000 children under eight 240 fewer children would be in care and 60 fewer children would be admitted to hospital or emergency departments with abuse injuries.

AGPN Mental Health GP Advisor Dr Christine McAuliffe said similar results could be hoped for in Australia.

"We don't know that the results for Australia would be as high, but even half that level of success, when combined with the proven impact on reducing depression and anxiety in both parents and children, would be significant for Australia's children," she said.

"We invest significantly in inoculating our kids against communicable diseases. For less than the cost of a rebateable fee for one child's visit to a GP, an investment in national implementation of Every Family would make a solid down payment in promoting the wellbeing and resilience of Australian families," said Dr McAuliffe

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