



20 October 2009

Health Reform Taskforce
Department of Health and Ageing
MDP 155
GPO Box 9848
WODEN ACT 2601

Dear Taskforce

AGPN Response to Health Reform Agenda

AGPN is pleased to provide the attached submissions to the three major reviews under way in health care policy:

- Final Report of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission
- Draft National Primary Health Care Strategy
- National Preventative Health Strategy

AGPN has welcomed these three reports and, in particular, the focus on the development of a national primary health care policy to bring direction and focus to planning, program development and service delivery in this sector. AGPN wants the Government to make a prompt response to their key directions.

Our responses make reference to our own blueprint for primary health care, *Care That Puts People First: The Australian General Practice Network's Primary Health Care Position Statement*. We take a particular focus on the key role that general practice must play in a prevention-oriented renewed primary health care system and the support this vital setting will require in order to do so.

We also discuss the role of local general practice networks in driving change and service improvement, and strongly support the evolution of the current general practice network into a regional system of strong, high performing primary health care



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organisations (PHCOs). We believe the introduction of PHCOs would be the most significant investment the Government could make in order to underpin future policy and give effect to future strategy under the national health reform agenda.

I am happy to discuss these submissions further with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Butt', written in a cursive style.

David Butt

Chief Executive Officer