

Partnerships

During 2004-2005 QDGP has been an active contributor to the following State Level Partnerships and Advisory Groups:

QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY CARE COALITION
working with key aged and community care groups to improve community care services and support in Qld

CENTRE FOR PALLIATIVE CARE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (CPCRE)
progressing opportunities for Divisional involvement and funding in palliative care education and training

RURAL AND REMOTE WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICE
improving the access of women in rural and remote areas to preventative health services

QUEENSLAND PUBLIC HEALTH FORUM
facilitates activities between organisations with the aim of maximising public health outcomes

GENERAL PRACTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (GPAC)
improving the health outcomes of Queenslanders through better communication, coordination and collaboration between government agencies, general practice organisations, general practitioners and the non-government sector

QUEENSLAND PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH CARE COLLABORATIVE (QPMHCC)
improving primary mental health care and developing opportunities in which stakeholders can work collaboratively together

QUEENSLAND GENERAL PRACTICE ALLIANCE
providing a unified voice for General Practice in Qld and progressing key strategic priorities in a coordinated and collaborative manner

QUEENSLAND ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER HEALTH ALLIANCE
improving the health status, wellbeing and health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Qld

PHC-RED QLD ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
establishing a sustainable research evaluation and development culture in primary health care

QUEENSLAND CHRONIC DISEASE SELF-MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE
promoting a more integrated approach to service delivery among health professionals and other service providers and in particular encouraging a greater role for consumers in the decision-making process

Workshops for Divisions

The following workshops have contributed to the knowledge and skills development of Divisional staff and Board members as well as enhancing Divisional information-sharing and co-operation:

- Accreditation Workshop for Divisions – Oct 04
- Qld Broadband Workshop – Oct 04
- Board Chairs Retreat – Nov 04
- GPAC Quality Use of Medicines Across the Continuum Workshop – Nov 04
- Vaccine Storage Workshop – Nov 04
- MSOAP Consultation and Planning Workshop – Jan 05
- Finance Workshop for Treasurers and Finance Officers – Feb 05
- Joint APNA/QDGP Nursing in General Practice State Workshop – Feb 05
- Qld Divisions Forums, including Divisional Staff Workshops – Oct 04, Feb 05, Jun 05
- RIC Information Session and Workshop – Mar 05
- Financial Management and Reporting Workshop – Apr 05
- Consultation Workshop to support Nursing in General Practice – May 05
- Mental Health State Face to Face Meeting and Workshop – May 05
- CEO Retreat – May 05
- Structural Efficiency Workshop – Jun 05
- Data Collection Workshop – Jun 05
- GP Leaders Workshop – Jul 05

Future Priorities 2005-2006

- Promoting the important role of Qld Divisions in contributing to a stronger health care system in Qld
- Supporting the development of the future Primary Health Care Workforce (General Practice, Practice Nurse and General Practice Teams)
- Supporting Accreditation and Continuous Improvement across Qld Divisions
- Building sustainable systems for Knowledge Management
- Enhancing Governance and Leadership capacity across Qld Divisions
- Strengthening engagement with Qld Communities
- Working in partnership with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities





Location

Queensland Divisions
of General Practice Assoc. Inc.
Level 5, 410 Queen St
Brisbane QLD 4000

Postal Address

GPO Box 2546
Brisbane QLD 4001

Phone: 07 3105 8300

Fax: 07 3105 8301

Email: qdgp@qdgp.org.au

www.qdgp.org.au

2005



Queensland Divisions of General Practice
Annual **Report** 2005



Official Office Opening

In July 2004, the QDGP Office re-located from Alderley to the Brisbane Central Business District. In addition to providing much-needed additional space, the new location has proved invaluable in facilitating closer and more regular contact with key stakeholders and funding bodies.

The Offices were officially opened by Minister for Health, the Hon Tony Abbott on Friday 4 March 2005.

Tele-Derm National Launch

In addition to opening the new QDGP offices, Minister Abbott also announced the national launch of Tele-Derm. Tele-Derm is a joint initiative between QDGP and ACRRM and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program. Since its commencement Tele-Derm has had approximately 30,000 hits and 590 enrollments nationally.

Queensland Divisions Forums

Judging by attendance and Divisional participation, the three Forums held during 2004-2005 continue to be highly valued by Qld Divisions. Increasing stakeholder participation at a number of the Sessions also demonstrated the relevance of this Forum for other parts of the Qld health sector.

The June 2005 Forum held in Cairns was a key milestone as this was the first Forum held out of Brisbane. This approach was very well-supported by all Qld Divisions and the June Forums will continue to be held at venues outside of the capital city.

Changes to the Board Composition

In October 2004, Qld Divisions endorsed some key constitutional changes for QDGP. One of the most significant of these changes was the inclusion of a Community Board Director position within the QDGP Board. Following a rigorous and transparent recruitment process, Divisions elected Mark Tucker-Evans to the Board of QDGP at the June 2005 General Meeting. Mark has a wealth of governance experience and has worked in the not-for-profit sector for many years. He will be a great asset to the QDGP Board and the Qld Divisions Network generally.

Division Information System (DIS)

QDGP has progressed implementation of an organisation-wide strategy to improve and retain important information about our membership. The Division Information System (DIS) is the customer relations database that has been implemented by QDGP. Key data has been installed and this system is being utilised and maintained by all staff. This database will increase our responsiveness and knowledge base about Divisions and other key stakeholders.

Introduction to Divisions Workshops

These workshops were initiated by QDGP to promote the work of the Qld Divisions Network as well as provide important information to

those stakeholder groups wishing to strengthen or initiate linkages with Qld Divisions. Two workshops were held during 2004-2005 with participation by 71 delegates from over 11 Qld organisations.

Policy Development Processes

Policy Development and influencing Government Policy has been a major focus for QDGP during 2004-2005. Significant outcomes were achieved in unifying the Qld voice around the importance of policy development to the Divisions network and the most effective policy development process to be utilised by QDGP in future policy development work. In particular during 2004-2005, QDGP has been progressing the development of a Qld Divisions Network Position Statement regarding the Role of General Practice within the Primary Health Care System in Qld.

Review Implementation Committee

The establishment of the Review Implementation Committee and the development of an ambitious workplan for the Committee, including the establishment of several RIC working groups has clearly demonstrated the intent of the Australian Government to progress the recommendations arising from the Review of Divisions and the Government Response.

This reform process has been undertaken with strong involvement and participation from members of the Divisions Network. QDGP has been invited to participate in all RIC working groups. This level of involvement, whilst demanding, has been welcomed, as it provides an invaluable opportunity for working in partnership with the Department of Health and Ageing and other members of the Divisions Network in shaping our future.



Financial Year 2004-2005 has proven to be a watershed in the history and development of the Divisions Network. As at 30 June 2005, the extent of reform within the Divisions Network is well-advanced. Changes include new funding agreements as well as new planning and reporting templates. The majority of Divisions are registered for accreditation (two Qld Divisions have already been accredited and all remaining sixteen are registered), some are actively considering structural reforms and work is progressing regarding review of the funding formula for Divisions. A new National Quality and Performance System has also been implemented, which includes key national performance indicators for the Divisions Network.

Major reform and review have also been a key feature of the State Government landscape. As a result of serious systemic issues in the Qld Health system, the early months of 2005 saw the commencement of the Morris Royal Commission (now known as Qld Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry) and the Qld Health Systems Review by Peter Forster. The outcomes of these Inquiries will drive the reform process for the Qld Health system into 2006 and beyond. This represents a significant and critical opportunity for the Qld Divisions Network to forge new and meaningful partnerships to address shared issues with Qld Health and to deliver the best health services to Queenslanders.

The provision of support and assistance that enhances the capacity and adds value to the work of Qld Divisions remains a key priority for QDGP. The Qld Divisions Forums provide a vital opportunity to bring together Qld Divisions and other key stakeholders. Divisions consistently provide feedback regarding their high level of satisfaction and support for the Forums.

The October 2004 Forum addressed international and national trends in Primary Health Care Policy. The currency of this topic raised substantial interest both within Qld Divisions and with external state and national stakeholders. Significant outcomes were achieved in unifying the Qld voice around the importance of policy development to the Divisions network and the most effective policy development process to be utilised by QDGP in future policy development work.

The focus on policy development and advocacy has facilitated a stronger level of unity across Qld Divisions. It also continues to provide QDGP with a stronger voice in influencing policy at a state and national level. It is important that the policy development process ensures that the views of all Qld Divisions can be incorporated and that a sense of unity, and not divisiveness, results.

This process also needs to link to work undertaken at a national level, and particularly align to national policy development processes.

QDGP has supported the development of a stronger Board Chairs Network during 2004-2005. Regular teleconferences and email communications as well as the Inaugural Board Chairs Retreat has built a strong leadership foundation across this group. Together, the EO Network and Board Chairs Network provide an invaluable source of input and guidance for QDGP, particularly in the area of policy development and strategic alliances.

In addition, the ADGP/SBO Coalition has provided an important vehicle through which to progress a number of strategic priorities for the Divisions network. QDGP has made a significant investment in the development of the Coalition and will continue to regard closer linkages and collaboration with other SBOs as a priority.

The Qld General Practice Alliance is also providing an effective mechanism for building unity across GP groups on key issues. The Alliance has produced several clear statements of policy position that have delivered strong, consistent messages to Qld Government. This united consistent voice has facilitated stronger influence and built more effective relationships between Qld GP groups.

QDGP has recognised the need for engagement with other key state level organisations, particularly the community sector. The constitutional changes to QDGP Articles of Association endorsed at the 2004 AGM to allow appointment of a non-GP to the QDGP Board is an important start to this engagement strategy. A Board priority for 2005 is to further develop a community engagement strategy for QDGP that will facilitate meaningful community input into QDGP as well as foster greater levels of cooperation and collaboration.

In order to face the many challenges and opportunities in our environment, the QDGP Board recognises the ongoing investment required in governance and leadership training for the Board as a whole, and for individual directors. Improved processes for the development and review of Board policy, along with a commitment to develop a high level strategic directions document are all governance priorities for the Board over the coming year. Through an agreed Governance and Leadership Framework, QDGP will also invest in and support all Qld Divisions to reach their full potential in the area of organisational Governance.





QDGP STATS

Promoting Queensland Divisions

QDGP introduced regular information sessions for key stakeholders about the Qld Divisions Network. These sessions provide stakeholders with an opportunity to learn more about Divisions and General Practice; their key functions and priorities; and how to effectively collaborate with Divisions.

Statistic

- 71 people from 11 organisations attended the QDGP "Introduction to Divisions" presentations

Queensland Divisions Forums

QDGP facilitates the Qld Divisions Forums three times a year to promote leadership, innovation and collaboration within and across the Divisions network in Qld.

Statistic

- 450 delegates attended the Qld Divisions Forums in 2004/05 financial year.

QDGP Web Site

Statistic

- 36,000 visits, 160,000 page views and 540,000 hits on the website for the 2004/2005 financial year.

Every Family

Every Family is a multi-sector, collaborative initiative aimed at reducing the prevalence of emotional and behavioural problems in children and families. The initiative is funded by beyondblue and involves Brisbane South Divisions, University of Queensland, Triple P International, Education Qld, Qld Health and Parentline.

Statistic

- Over 400 professionals (GPs, schools, health staff) trained in Triple P Positive Parenting Program
- 2500 parents attended positive parenting seminars, groups or school workplace programs
- Positive parenting resources (newsletters, tipsheets, event flyers) distributed to all parents in P-3 classes across 30 schools in Brisbane South

MSOAP

The Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and aims to improve the access of rural and remote communities to specialist medical services. QDGP is one of two fundholders for this program in Queensland.

Statistic

- 27 specialists contracted
- 37 communities received QDGP MSOAP funded specialist services with many receiving multiple disciplines
- 4,124 patient consultations were delivered under the QDGP MSOAP. This included 637 indigenous patients which accounted for 15.4% of all consultations

Tele-Derm

Tele-Derm is an online resource designed primarily for rural general practitioners interested in obtaining practical advice on the diagnosis and management of skin disease in general practice. Tele-Derm is a joint initiative between QDGP and ACRRM and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program.

Statistic

- Approximately 30,000 hits and 590 enrollments nationally for Tele-Derm

SimMan Crisis Resource Management Workshops

As part of the Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program, QDGP and local Divisions of General Practice provided Crisis Resource Management Workshops for health professionals utilising the Human Patient Simulator – SimMan

Statistic

- 59 participants including GPs, practice nurses and other practice staff attended SimMan Crisis Resource Management Workshops

Aged Care

The Initiative aims to: (a) improve access to medical care for residents (b) increase GP participation in aged care quality improvement activities and (c) assist GPs and Divisions to work more effectively with aged care homes.

Statistic

- 100% of Qld Divisions of General Practice have established an Aged Care GP Panel. This has led to increased GP access to aged care homes, as shown by



PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

increases in the MBS items claimed in the homes e.g. 4888 comprehensive medical assessments (item 712) were undertaken in Qld in 2004/2005

Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care Initiative

The Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care Initiative offers a system which responds to the barriers to mental health care commonly expressed by GPs such as the need for relevant training, access to specialist support and improved remuneration for the time spent on mental health consultations. The initiative also includes providing the public with subsidised access to allied health professionals.

Statistic

- 38 Division Staff, 53 GPs and 19 Psychiatrists attended QDGP mental health workshops and training
- 100% of Qld Divisions received funding under The Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care Initiative for the Access to Allied Psychological Services

Immunisation

The Nursing in General Practice Program facilitates initiatives aimed at coordinating and funding training opportunities for Practice Nurses across Qld and assisting in the development and maintenance of Practice Nurse programs for Divisions with limited Practice Nurse support

Statistic

- 74% of Qld Divisions provide Practice Nurse support.
- There are approximately 1230 Practice Nurses employed in Qld general practices which represents an increase of 208% from the previous year.

Input to Government Policy

QDGP continues to provide input into state and federal government policies reflecting the key role Divisions of General Practice play in primary health care.

Statistic

- Input provided into 13 key government policies.

Broadband for Health

Broadband for Health is a \$35 million Australian Government initiative over the next three years that supports the immediate and widespread uptake of secure, high bandwidth broadband services to General Practices and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services around Australia.

Statistic

- 420 practices registered for Broadband for Health

Finance Results

- \$4,570,000 total income received in the 2004/05 financial year
- \$1,234,971 received in new funding in the 2004/05 financial year for the following:
 - Partners in Mind
 - GPAC Privacy Project
 - Nursing in General Practice
 - Support for Implementation of RIC Reforms
 - Lifestyle Prescriptions
- In excess of \$3,300,000 total income was expended in the 2004/05 financial year
- \$306,000 in total was paid by QDGP to Qld Divisions in the 2004/05 financial year which represents 9% of QDGP's expenditure
- \$20,000 was received in sponsorship for the Qld Divisions Forums

State Policy Development

Issue	Actions
Qld Divisions Policy development process	Position paper developed and endorsed by the Qld network
Forster Review	QDGP submission to the Review
Policy paper on the Role of General Practice in Primary Health Care	Paper development process commenced in early 2005 and continued during the reporting period.
Community engagement:	Board paper submitted; June 2005 Forum presentation delivered; continuing involvement with the Qld Community Care Coalition
Qld Public Hospitals Commission of Inquiry	GP Alliance submission to the Inquiry
Bulk billing clinics/after hours	Using the Qld GP Alliance position statement as background, QDGP has provided strong advice and representation on behalf of Qld Divisions on alternative strategies to implement this election commitment
Statewide Chronic Disease Initiative	With General Practice and Divisions as key stakeholders in the provision of chronic disease management and prevention, QDGP has participated on the state steering committee and overseen the consultation with and input of Qld Divisions.

Policy and Ac

National Policy Development

Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee on Quality and Equity in Aged Care	QDGP Submission to the Committee.
ADGP – PGA MOU	A Qld Divisions Network response was forwarded to the ADGP Board for consideration
RRMA Review	A Qld Divisions Network response was prepared for and forwarded to AGDHA for consideration
Skilled Migrant Review	The Qld GP Alliance Position Statement on International Medical Graduates was forwarded for consideration
National Service Improvement Framework – Asthma	A Qld Divisions Network response was prepared for and forwarded to AGDHA for consideration

Other Representatives for Queensland

GPAC – Dr Janette Randall, Dr John Kastrissios
 GPAC Communications Work Group – Dr Hume Rendle-Short, Dr Denise
 GPAC Quality Use of Medicines Work Group – Dr Peter Roush
 GPAC Quality Use of Medicines Workshop – Dr Jacqui Graham,
 Dr Di Monsour, Dr Janette Randall, Dr Hume Rendle-Short, Dr Bev Raasch,
 Queensland Public Health Forum – Dr Dilip Dhupelia
 Queensland GP Alliance – Dr John Kastrissios

Advocacy and Representation

Impact
The position paper has provided a vehicle for policy development for the network in Qld.
The Forster Review's interim report was consistent with QDGP's submission.
Focussed minds on the general practice role, and in doing so, charted new territory.
Consolidating Community Engagement as a priority for 2005/2006 financial year.
IMG position statement to be posted as a separate document on the Inquiry website.
A key election commitment for the Beattie Government in 2004 was the establishment of Bulk Billing clinics in or near public hospital emergency departments
Qld Health is leading the development of a Chronic Disease strategy for Qld to address the growing burden of chronic disease Representatives: Ms Ann Maree Liddy, Dr John Kastrissios on Statewide Steering Committee, Dr Marli Watt and Dr Anita Green on CD Strategy Evaluation Working Group

Advocacy

Submission well received – QDGP was invited (but were unable) to attend hearings in Brisbane.
Providing a blueprint for Divisions and Pharmacy to work more collaboratively
The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing undertook to review the Rural, Remote and Metropolitan Areas (RRMA) classification, including incorporating measures relating to workforce shortage and the health and wellbeing of a region. RRMA has long been used as a proxy for access and is used in multiple funding decisions relating to the Divisions Program
The management of chronic disease is a key element of general practice. GPs have a critical role in the prevention and management of Asthma.

Divisions:

Powell

Dr Eddie Roos, Dr David Parker

Issue	Actions	Impact
Regular meetings with senior Qld Health Executive	QDGP CEO, President and Vice President have attended quarterly meetings with the Qld Health Senior Executive Directors of Health Services, Innovation and Workforce Reform, and Strategic Policy and Government Liaison.	Provides an opportunity and forum for strategic discussions on key issues of commonality.
Women's Cancer Screening Services Training Project	Qld Health gained Royal College of Nursing Australia approval for a Pap provider training course for practice nurses.	QDGP is working with Divisions of General Practice to pilot the training course in regional Qld.
Qld Cervical Screening Program – Training Project for Medical Practitioners	Qld Health is undertaking a project to identify and propose strategies to meet the cervical screening educational needs of medical practitioners working in Qld.	QDGP is providing representation as the majority of pap smears taken in Qld are provided by general practitioners.
Health Contact Centre incl provider directory workshop	QDGP has provided representation on the state steering committee and has facilitated information about this important election commitment to Qld Divisions.	A key election commitment for the Beattie Government in 2004 was the establishment of a 24 hour, 7 day a week health information line Representative: Dr Janette Randall
Nurse Practitioner	QDGP has provided representation on the state steering committee and regular information updates to Qld Divisions.	With workforce shortages in Qld well documented, Qld Health is piloting the role of nurse practitioners in key areas to support continuity of care for the patient Representatives: Dr Marli Watt and Dr Fiona McGrath
Quality Management Committee Bowel Cancer Screening Initiative	QDGP has provided representation on the state steering committee which is examining state implementation issues	The AGDHA recently announced the national roll out the bowel cancer screening initiative of which the Mackay Division of General Practice was involved in the pilot Representatives: Ms Ann Maree Liddy and Dr David Parker
Adolescent pregnancy prevention steering committee	QDGP has provided representation on the state steering committee	Representative: Dr Marie Cox
Cancer Control Focus Group	QDGP conducted a focus group of GPs to provide specific input to statewide planning	Cancer control is a critical area of focus for Qld Health following on from the 2004 election with a number of statewide service plans and initiatives being developed. Representatives: Dr Kevin Arlett, Dr Hume Rendle Short, Dr Helen Archibald
Qld Health Sexual Assault Guidelines	Qld Health has prepared a submission regarding a comprehensive integrated approach to sexual assault for Qld.	Qld Health facilitated a workshop to identify key issues around Qld Health's response to sexual assault, its working relationships with key partners and the role of GPs in an integrated pathway Representatives: Dr Lee Sands and Dr Jon Thomas
Statewide Cardiac Services Planning	QDGP provided GP representatives to the workshops conducted to develop this plan	Qld Health undertook to prepare a statewide cardiac services plan to address the growing needs of the Qld population Representatives: Dr Griselda Calabrese, Dr Rod Martin and Dr Michelle Johnson
Review Implementation Committee Working Groups	Through its membership of the RIC working groups QDGP has been influential in shaping the future for the Divisions network	QDGP is a member of the following RIC Working Groups: Structural Efficiency Working Group Planning and Reporting Working Group Funding Agreement Working Group Performance Working Group Financial Reporting Working Group Funding Formula Reference Group Representatives: Ms Ann Maree Liddy, Mr David Phillips, Ms Lynette Fergusson