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Department of Health and Ageing

Aged Care GP Panels

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Department of Health and Ageing



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Due to the current caretaker period the Department is not in a position to comment on policy, but may provide factual information on this Initiative.



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Overview

- Background
- Aged Care GP Panels
- Divisions
- MBS Data
- Aged Care Survey



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Why Aged Care and GPs?

- Number of GPs providing services in aged care homes has fallen while number of residents has risen
- Majority of services are being provided by a small proportion of GPs
- Increasing proportions of aged care residents have high care needs and complex conditions



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GPs in Aged Care

Year	GPs	Services	Ave. services	% change GPs	% change service s	RACF numbers	% change
1999	12,738	1,573,939	123.6			131,874	
2000	12,673	1,570,253	123.9	-0.5	-0.2	132,827	+0.7
2001	12,646	1,605,239	126.9	-0.2	+2.2	134,305	+1.1
2002	12,465	1,639,381	131.5	-1.4	+2.1%	136,341	+1.5
2003	12,266	1,707,914	139.2	-1.6	+4.2	140,302	+2.9
Total				-3.7	+8.3		+6.3



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Aged Care GP Panels Initiative

- Started 1 July 2004
- Aim
 - to ensure better access to primary medical care for residents of aged care homes
 - to enable GPs to work with aged care homes on quality improvement strategies for the care of residents
 - to assist GPs and Divisions to work more effectively with aged care homes



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Scope of Panel Activities

- Provision of care for residents unable to access usual GP
- Assisting in sourcing or adapting protocols (eg for emergency care)
- Addressing barriers to primary care service provision in aged care homes
- Participating in QI activities (eg quality care committees, medication advisory committees, preventive health activities)



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Role of Divisions

- Work with aged care homes and GPs to identify needs and determine Panel activities
- Promote interest among aged care homes and GPs
- In partnership with aged care homes, appoint GPs to Panels
- Establish contractual arrangements and administer GP payments



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Role of Divisions (cont)

- Provide administrative support to Panel GPs
- Provide avenues for up-skilling and professional support to Panel GPs
- Share resources and work collaboratively to implement and manage the Initiative
- Monitor, evaluate and review Panel arrangements



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Evaluation

- Major feature of this Initiative
- Indicators designed in advance – planning & transparency
- 12 month review & 2007 evaluation



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Performance Indicators

- Three sources of information
 - Divisions Reports
 - MBS Data
 - Aged Care Survey



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Divisions Reports

- Activities undertaken
- Barriers and challenges
 - actions proposed or taken
- GP numbers, hours, remuneration type
- Outcomes and achievements against performance indicators



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MBS Data

- Number of services provided to residents of aged care homes
- Services as a proportion of aged care beds
- Services to residential aged care homes as a ratio to FTE
- Age and gender of GPs providing services to aged care facilities



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Choose Division:

Division
Number

Annual Summary

Aged Care item total

Division Name

Number of
services

% increase on previous
year

Year

Division

Vic

National

Division

Vic

National

2002-03

13,157

438,168

1,677,805

na

na

na

2003-04

13,767

465,912

1,752,646

105%

106%

104%



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Detail by Year

200-04

2003-04

Name of Division

Item	Number of services		
	Division	Vic	National
20	793	18,355	65,111
35	12,582	399,058	1,482,754
43	334	30,477	142,901
51	37	3,880	19,275
92	-	33	313
712	-	-	-
730	-	3,135	7,684
779	-	53	289
Aged Care item total	13,767	465,912	1,752,646
GPs, with Aged Care items	465,679	18,439,128	72,772,721
GPs, without Aged Care items	24,402	10,324,866	45,415,858
All GPs	490,081	28,763,994	118,188,579

* Some cells that contain data have been suppressed for confidentiality reasons



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Aged Care Survey

- Evaluation Working Group devised general questions
- Questions are designed to address the performance indicators
- Engaging a consultant to administer and finalise the survey
- Census of smaller Divisions, random sample of larger Divisions



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Survey – Draft Items

- Ask Homes about:
 - Access to GPs
 - Contact with Divisions
 - Homes' quality improvement activities



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Evaluation

- 12 month review to examine:
 - funding models
 - role of geriatricians
 - general progress
- A formal evaluation will inform 2007 Budget considerations



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Conclusion

- MBS data will be available soon
- Aged Care Survey to homes this year
- Input and comment from Divisions to assist with the 12 month review will be encouraged.