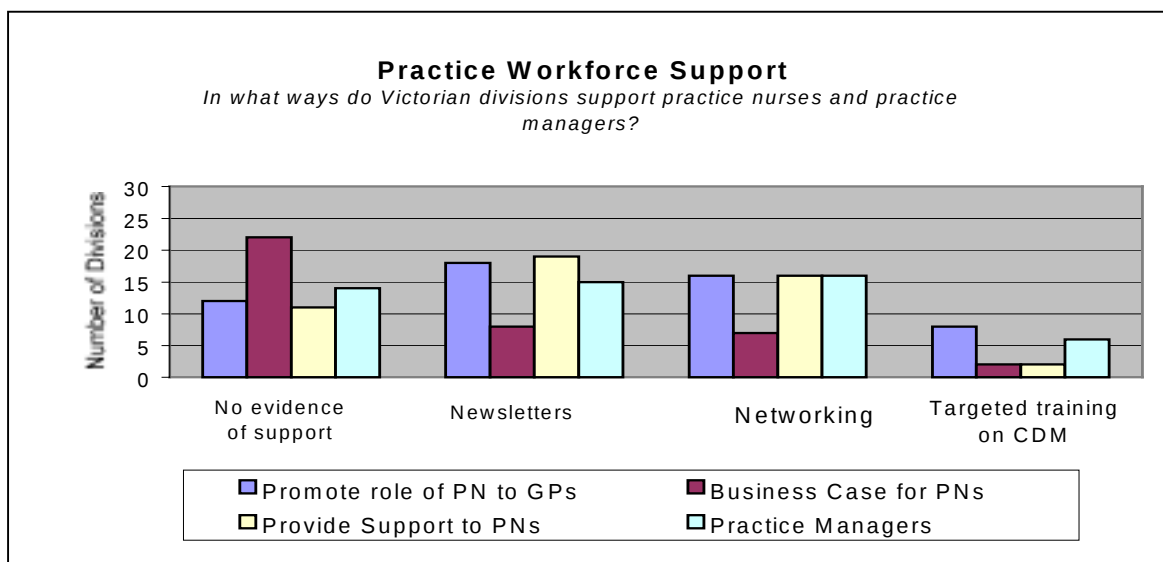


5. PRACTICE WORKFORCE SUPPORT

We have analysed the level of support provided by divisions to general practice workforce incorporating both practice nurses and practice managers. As demonstrated in the graph, divisions have provided a range of service, starting from newsletter articles and providing networking opportunities to a few divisions providing targeted CDM training.



5.1 Promoting the role of the practice nurse in chronic disease management

Divisions have continued to extend their role in promoting practice nurses to support GPs to take on the CDM incentives. Practice nurse networks have continued to address primarily diabetes and asthma support for general practice.

5.2 Promoting the business case for practice nurses

It was clear in the implementation plans that divisions recognise the benefits of the practice nurses as critical in improving GP uptake of the CDM incentives and therefore the capacity to adopt a population health approach. At this stage there remains little evidence of such activity in this reporting period, as divisions may be awaiting ADGP's business case models for practice nurses.

5.3 Supporting practice nurses in their workplace

Supporting practice nurses continues to be a significant part of the CDM business reports for all Victorian divisions, whether rural or metropolitan. It is apparent from the reports that divisions are providing a consistent level of support for practice nurses within their division, especially facilitating training opportunities and access to well-informed industrial advice. Divisions' business reports demonstrate a commitment to promote and support the role of practice nurses as a pivotal component of the CDM program.

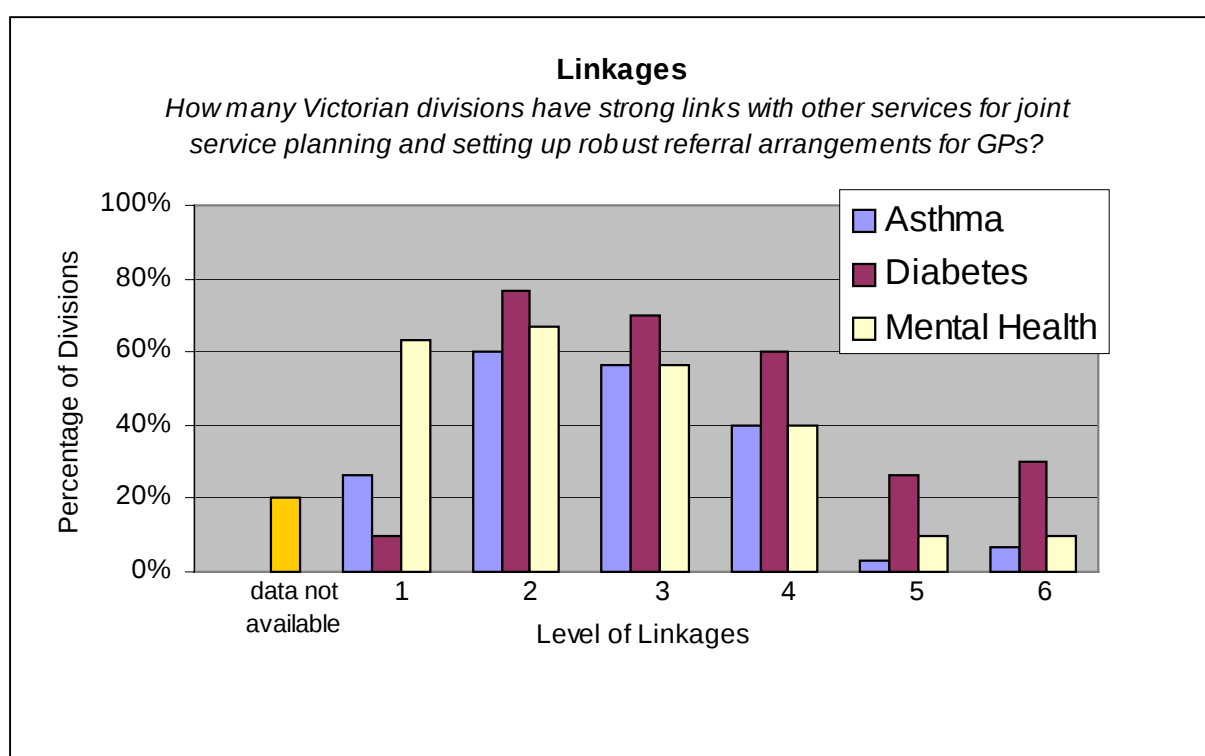
5.4 Practice Managers

Divisions have continued to support practice managers through practice managers' networks, and an increasing number report integrating information on the CDM program in this reporting period.

6. CAPACITY BUILDING AND LINKAGES

Capacity building and linkages are a key element of the CDM Program in encouraging divisions to develop strategic alliances with their local allied health providers and community organisations. In comparison to the previous business reports, linkages were better reported on and reflected more accurately the level of activity occurring out there. We feel this demonstrates an increase in awareness of the role of linkages in the CDM program.

More divisions continue to report on strategic alliances in diabetes than in either asthma or mental health, although reporting on mental health strategic alliances has improved. There has been a slight increase in the level of linkages with movement towards collaborating with other providers. Formal linkages still appear to be associated with specifically funded projects. GPDV is conducting a workshop in June to explore opportunities for collaboration between divisions and PCPs using the CDM initiatives as a platform. We aim to address the issue of forming linkages within existing funding resources.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 0 | Data not available. |
| 1 | No evidence of linkages with other agencies. |
| 2 | Can identify other relevant service providers. |
| 3 | Some preliminary, informal networking, eg, invited to division CPD, + 2 above. |
| 4 | Collaborating with other agencies, including PCPs + 3 above. |
| 5 | Referral protocols + 4 above. |
| 6 | Joint projects with other agencies + 5 above. |