

Australian and State Government Collaboration in Health

CEO Network Meeting
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Australian/State Government Joint Work Program

- July 2000: Health Ministers endorsed joint Australian/State Government work program in primary health and community care
- August 2001: Health Ministers endorsed development of bilateral agreements between Australian and State/Territory Governments

Bilateral Agreement

- 2001: *Victorian Primary Health and Community Care Bilateral Agreement* between DoHA and DHS developed
- Agreement included objectives and strategies specific to Victoria within a national framework

Objectives

- Improved services through:
 - implementation of Australian and Victorian State Government initiatives PCPs and Divisions
 - Better service coordination
- Improved collaboration between hospitals and primary care providers
- Coordination of chronic disease management initiatives

Objectives (cont.)

- Coordination of IM/IT initiatives
- Coordination of mental health initiatives
- Improved access for Indigenous people to primary health care

Outcomes of Bilateral Agreement

- Active involvement of Divisions in PCPs
- Joint information sessions on EPC MBS items
- Jointly funded demonstration projects on EPC hospital discharge
- Collaboration on HARP projects
- Mapping of chronic disease and mental health activities.

Outcomes (cont.)

- Joint forum on chronic disease with NGOs
- Joint involvement in GP/Resi care committees
- Collaboration on connectivity issues between general practice, hospitals and PCPs
- Collaboration on the implementation of the Victorian Koori State Health Plan

Australian Health Care Agreements

- Bilateral Agreement has now ceased but DoHA Victorian Office and DHS continue to work together
- Commitment to cooperative reform also continues through the 2003-08 Australian Health Care Agreements (AHCAs)
- AHCAs signed by all Health Ministers in August 2003.

AHCA Priorities

- Improving the interface between hospitals and primary and aged care services
- Achieving greater continuity of care between primary, community, acute, sub-acute, transition and aged care settings
- Exploring establishment of a single national system for pharmaceuticals across all settings

Recent national collaboration

- National Chronic Disease Strategy
- Cancer reform – National Service Improvement Framework
- Development of a National Health Workforce Action Plan
- Caring for older Australians across the acute-aged continuum
- Access to specialists in rural and remote areas
- Strategies to address end stage renal disease in rural and remote areas

Collaboration in Victoria - Rural Health

- Multipurpose Services Program
- Victorian Overseas Trained Doctor Rural Recruitment Scheme (VORRS or 5 year scheme)
- Regional Health Services Program and More Allied Health Services Program
- Joint work to assist small rural health services in crisis

Collaboration in Victoria - Primary and Community Care

- Primary Care Partnerships and Divisions
- GPs in Community Health
- GP Hospital Integration Project Gippsland
- After Hours
- Chronic Disease Initiatives
- Information Management

Collaboration in Victoria - Population Health

- National Illicit Drugs Strategy
- Drug Diversion Program – Victorian State Reference Group
- Victorian Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee
- Coordinated Health Care Trial Monitoring Group

Victorian Advisory Committee on General Practice (VACGP)

- Established April 1988
- Chaired by State Manager, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (currently Ms Raelene Thompson)
- Addresses strategic issues facing general practice in Victoria

Key achievements of VACGP

- Influencing policy development at Victorian and Australian Government levels
- Communicating with key decision makers
- Exchanging information on key issues such as workforce, future models of General Practice, accreditation and quality issues and residential aged care

VACGP Membership

- Representatives from
 - DoHA, DHS, DVA
 - GPDV
 - AMA, RACGP
 - RWAV, RDAV
 - Health Issues Centre

Meetings

- Meets approximately six-weekly
- Each meeting focuses on a priority theme/s
- Speakers and guests are invited to contribute to the discussion

Input/Follow-up

- VACGP members seek and provide feedback to their organisations on issues
- More detailed work carried out in sub-committees
- Recommendations are forwarded to relevant agencies including both levels of Government for action
- Summary report is circulated widely

2005 Themes

Workforce

- Making general practice attractive so residents will enter it!
- Education and training

2005 Themes

Interface Issues

- chronic, complex illness including cancer
- mental health (including workforce issues)
- drug and alcohol (mis)use
- Hospital Admission Risk Program
- information management/information technology

2005 Themes

- Interface issues (cont.)
 - red tape
 - after hours care
- Models of Primary Care
- Transition Care
- Early Childhood Health Care
- Maternity Services

Opportunities for Division Input

- Input via GPDV