



General Practice & the Divisions' Network: The Way Forward

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Australian Divisions of General Practice



Australian Divisions of **General Practice**

General Practice pre - 2000

- Primary Mental Health Education
- Timely clinical support
- Psychiatry access
- Remuneration
- Allied health access
- Hospital Admissions
- Acute Crisis Team
- Consumer / carer involvement



Australian Divisions of **General Practice**

Divisions pre - 2000

- Isolated and ad hoc pilot projects
- Lack of sustainability
- Fragmentation
- Patchy 'buy in' by Divisions



Australian Divisions of **General Practice**

Presentations to general practice

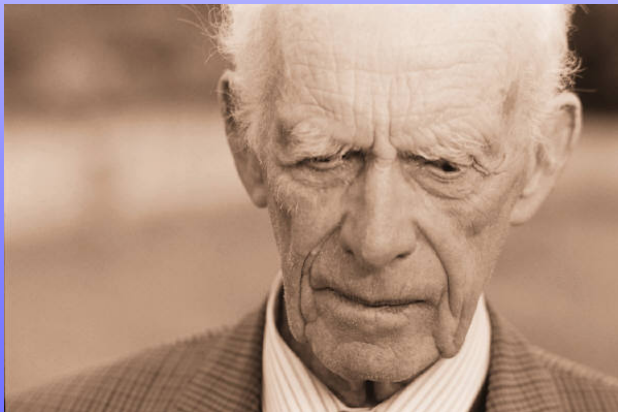
- Opportunistic interventions
- High number of mental health consultations
- Depression a major illness



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Presentations to general practice

- Across the life span





Australian Divisions of **General Practice**

Presentations to general practice

- Co-morbidities; **the rule not the exception**
- Chronic **physical** conditions → mental health problems
- Mental health disorders a **risk factor** for physical disease





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Why people choose general practice



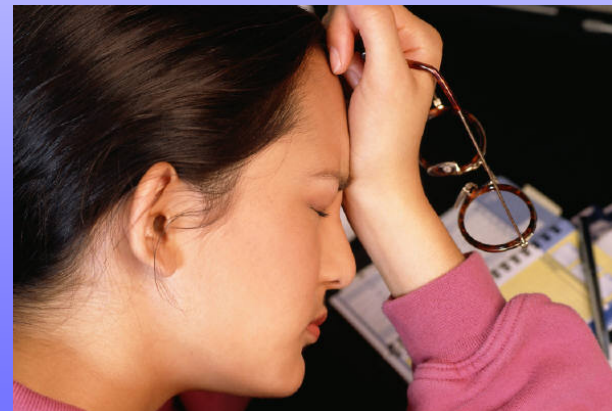
Established & trusting relationship

Less stigma

GP is affordable
(medicare rebates)

Accessible

Often present with physical
symptoms





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Policy & Divisional Changes

- 1999 – 2nd National Primary Mental Health Care Plan – recognising primary care
- NPMHCI
- Longer term projects
- Linkages and relationship building
- Increasing ‘buy in’ by Divisions
- State wide coordination. State gov’t ‘buy in’



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National Primary Mental Health Care Network

- Agenda setting
- Managing change
- Brokering solutions
- Represents Divisions and SBOs
- Bridging 'coalface' and policy makers
- 'Joining the dots' in primary care



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BOiMHCI - 2001

- Beginnings of a national system
- Embedded in Medicare
- Mental health as core business
- Divisions providing service delivery
- Emphasis on integration



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Building blocks of primary mental health care reform

- Enablers
- Educators
- Change agents
- Champions
- Providers
- Fund holders
- Linkers and brokers



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	2000	2005
Primary Mental Health Education		BOiMHC 
Timely Clinical Support		GP Psych Support 
Psychiatry Access		New item Nos Assessment & Plans 
Remuneration		BOiMHC 



Australian Divisions of **General Practice**

Allied Health
Access



Well received



Hospital
Admission



Bed based, not needs



Acute Crisis
Team



Lacking resources



Consumer Carer
Involvement



Increasing
Consumer networks





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Current Developments

- Primary Health Care Position Statement
- Mental health: a network priority
- Submission to the Senate Inquiry
- Federal Budget 2006-2007 Submission
- Australia's new national mental health policy



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Primary Health Care Position Statement



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Future directions

- Prevention and early intervention
 - MindMatters and Every Family
- Increased funding for Better Outcomes
 - ATAPS and registrar training
- Mechanisms for better coordinating patient discharge to primary care and access to support services eg. housing
- Private psychiatry reform



Australian Division



Networking – people working together with a common goal