

Memorandum of
Understanding
between
RWAV and
GPDV

Rural Workforce Agency, Victoria



Supporting Victoria's Rural Doctors



Introduction

Both the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) and General Practice Divisions Victoria (GPDV) were set up, with Commonwealth funding, in 1998. GPDV is the state-based organisation of divisions in Victoria, established under the Commonwealth Divisions of General Practice Program. RWAV is the state rural workforce agency in Victoria established under the Commonwealth Rural and Remote General Practice Program.

The Divisions of General Practice Program

The main aim of the Divisions Program is to improve health outcomes for patients by encouraging GPs to work together and link with other health professionals to upgrade the quality of health services delivery at the local level. The outcomes sought by the Commonwealth include: improved evidence based patient care, involvement in addressing population health issues, an effective network of divisions which provide a link between GPs and local health policy planning initiatives and help the integration of general practice with other health providers.

The Rural and Remote General Practice Program

The program aims to improve the recruitment and retention of GPs in rural and remote areas, thereby improving access to primary medical services for rural and remote residents. The program is also designed to address the overall undersupply of GPs in rural and remote areas; adopt a cooperative and rational planning approach to the provision of rural and remote primary medical services; and deliver incentives and support for the recruitment and retention of rural GPs.

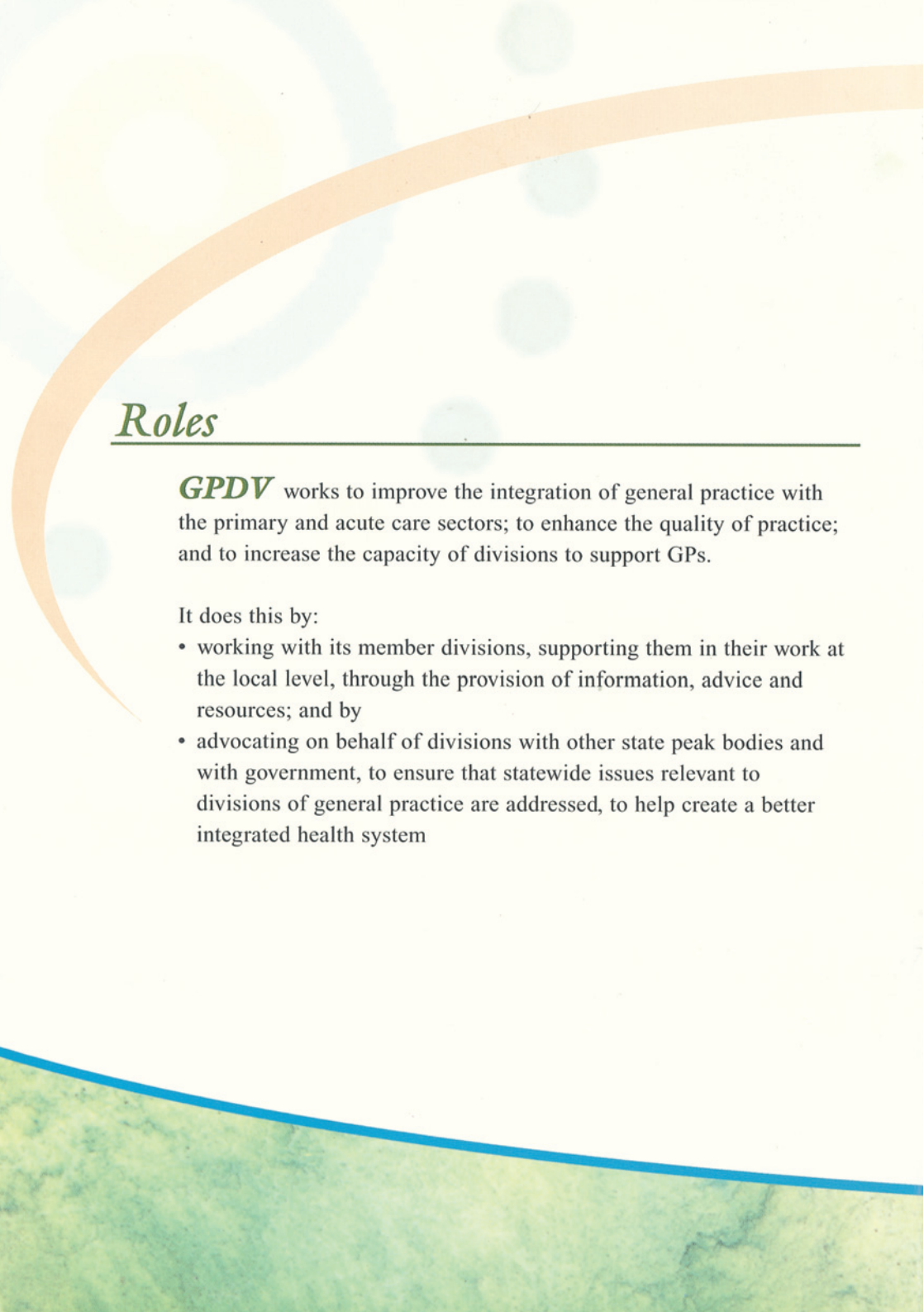
Our Members

GPDV's members are the 30 divisions of general practice in Victoria. There are eight GPs on the board of GPDV: four elected by rural/regional divisions and four elected by metropolitan divisions.

RWAV has a broad based membership including:

- 14 rural divisions of general practice
- General Practice Divisions Victoria
- Monash University School of Rural Health
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Rural Doctors Association Victoria
- Rural Medical Family Network
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- Victorian Healthcare Association
- Committee of Chairmen of Victorian State Committees of Medical Colleges

RWAV is managed by a board of directors, which includes five representatives of rural divisions and representatives of the other listed stakeholder organisations.



Roles

GPDV works to improve the integration of general practice with the primary and acute care sectors; to enhance the quality of practice; and to increase the capacity of divisions to support GPs.

It does this by:

- working with its member divisions, supporting them in their work at the local level, through the provision of information, advice and resources; and by
- advocating on behalf of divisions with other state peak bodies and with government, to ensure that statewide issues relevant to divisions of general practice are addressed, to help create a better integrated health system



Roles

RWAV works to address the shortage of medical services in rural Victoria and to promote greater health service options for people living in these areas. Its objectives are to:

- Improve the recruitment, attraction and retention of doctors in rural and remote areas, thereby improving access to primary medical services for residents in these areas.
- Address the overall undersupply of doctors in rural and remote areas.

RWAV works directly with rural doctors, divisions of general practice, health services, training providers and communities.

RWAV has a statewide role in coordination of rural medical workforce data, planning and research, marketing and recruitment services including the recruitment of overseas trained doctors and support of and promotion of sustainable models of rural medical practice that ensure adequate access to services for rural communities to meet their needs. RWAV also delivers a range of support programs and incentive to rural doctors, divisions of general practice and communities.



Purpose

The purpose of developing this Memorandum of Understanding is:

- to outline the roles of the two organisations so that GPDV and RWAV can collaborate to provide the most effective support to divisions and GPS; and
- to provide a basis for joint work.

Partnership

RWAV recognises GPDV as the statewide body that represents the 30 Victorian divisions of general practice.

GPDV recognises RWAV as the statewide body that supports the development of the rural medical workforce and sustainable medical services.

The Agreement

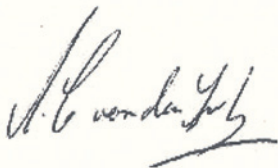
The MoU commits GPDV and RWAV for a period of three (3) years to :

- deliver a coordinated program of events and workshops for rural divisions of general practice;
- support rural divisions of general practice and GPs to work with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, in a way that is consistent with the MoU's between GPDV, RWAV and VACCHO;
- joint advocacy for improved GP data collection and analysis;
- work together where possible on administrative processes that will build the capacity of each organisation to support rural general practice.

Implementation

Joint working groups of both organisations shall be established as required to implement action under this memorandum.

This memorandum will be reviewed three months before it expires, with a view to negotiating a further agreement.

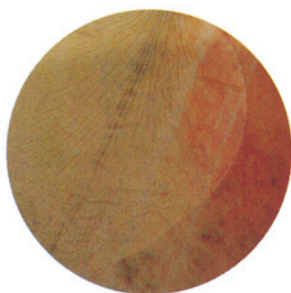


RWAV Chair
Dr Anthony Van Der Spek



GPDV Chair
Dr Nola Maxfield

December 2003



Rural Workforce Agency, Victoria



Supporting Victoria's Rural Doctors

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RWAV & GPDV are funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing