



SA Divisions
of General
Practice Inc



COMMUNIQUE

Meeting 15th and 16th June 2006

Members of the State Based Organisation Immunisation Coordinator (SBOIC) Network held a very productive meeting in Canberra over 15-16 June 2006 where they dealt with many hot issues concerning immunisation. The members shared experiences from their own jurisdictions and knowledge of the different practices and procedures from the varying States and Territories.

The SBOIC Network was formed to share resources, collaborate to resolve issues, provide support and work as a network team to improve the immunisation practices and rates throughout the country.

The Terms of Reference for the SBOIC Network were varied to reflect the desire of the members to increase their level of interaction and networking and to increase linkages with national representation.

National Immunisation Committee (NIC) members, Dr Greg Rowles representing the ADGP and Helen Moore, ADGP Principle Adviser for Immunisation, also agreed to improve the communication between the SBOIC Network and local Divisions by taking issues to the NIC and providing relevant feedback. Those long standing issues will also be pressed for action by NIC.

Issues from general discussion:

- To help the SBO with handover materials for new members, the Network will finalise an Orientation Kit which is being developed to complement existing resources and the Immunisation Kit
- Cold Chain management and in particular the Strive for 5 program was discussed and the issues concerning the different States and Territories were addressed. One important area of concern is the transporting of vaccines by patients from the pharmacy to the surgery. This will be

followed up with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia as well as the Divisions network for action.

- Various issues were raised concerning the accessibility and timely allocation of the funds from the National Indigenous Pneumococcal and Influenza Immunisation Program (NIPII). The SBOIC network and the AGDP will be taking these issues to the relevant government bodies with the aim of simplifying the processes and encouraging a quicker response so that promotions can be planned for the beginning of the Flu season.

Comment [JR1]:

Officers from the Department of Health and Ageing attended the meeting and addressed issues concerning the Network. The officers also spoke about the increasingly complex schedule, the success of the overall program and the need to guard against complacency. They also indicated that the consultation for the Whole of Life Register mentioned in the Federal Budget was to be funded over 2 years involving 3 phases; Phase 1 being consultative with respect to the possible format of the register, Phase 2 for establishing the relationships between the stand alone registers and the WOL Register and Phase 3 to fit the register into e-Health.

The Network lobbied the Departmental officers strongly for an increase in the funding for Divisions and SBOs and for the GPII Schedule to be released to the Network as soon as possible.

A presentation by Queensland members emphasised the need for SBOs to build and maintain good two way relationships with State health people. In Queensland this has resulted in funding for a joint program aimed at improving the Cold Chain management in that State.

The National Divisions Immunisation Workshop will be held on 2nd August 2006 and will follow the PHAA Immunisation Conference. The Workshop will be at the same venue at Darling Harbour. The Theme for this year is ***Immunisation across the Whole of Life*** and hopes to elicit interest, information and policy on this issue.

Additionally, the ADGP Divisions Immunisation Profile 2006 will be launched at this year's Workshop. The Profile is a web based data gathering exercise and will be a valuable tool for both SBO and Divisions. The data gathering process will be actioned by ADGP shortly and will involve all Divisions.

For more information on any of the items discussed above, please contact your SBO representative in your state or territory.