



**Border Division of General Practice Ltd Trading as  
ALBURY WODONGA REGIONAL GP NETWORK  
ADDENDUM TO FRIDAY FACTS**

Week Ending  
**19 Nov 2010**

### **Its crunch time**

**Today, (Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2010), the Board of the Albury Wodonga Regional GP Network (AWRGPN) met to decide on a way forward for our organisation in light of the development of Medicare Locals (Primary Health Care Organisations – PHCO’s).**

Many of our problems and resources are shared by the proposed partners in the Hume Plus proposal and we all work well together and will strive to keep strong local influence using the strengths of our current organisations.

The AWRGPN Board has recommended after discussion and negotiation over the past few months, to submit a registration of interest (ROI) to become part of a consortium with North East Victoria Division of General Practice, Goulburn Valley General Practice Division and Bogong Regional Training Network. This group to be known as ‘Hume Plus Medicare Local’ will form the core of an organisation whose function will be to liaise with general practice and other primary care organisations, as well as local universities, aboriginal health organisations, Hospital Networks and so on, and to help coordinate and seek funding for programs in a coordinated and targeted fashion.

Our Board feels that this move to become a key part of such a vital organisation will enable GP’s to be central in helping the broader health needs of their patients. Disadvantaged groups will be a particular target for Hume Plus Medicare Local.

If we are selected as one of the 15 PHCO’s to be funded in the first round, it is envisaged Hume Plus Medicare Local will be operational by July 2011.

By June 30 2012, our current funding will cease and we see the proposal as the best way to continue with and improve on our support of GP’s and their patients.

AWRGPN will work to maintain and expand or improve current services with the aid of this model of service delivery. This is in keeping with our strategic plan as presented to the AGM and approved by our members.

**Michael Bartram  
CHAIRMAN**

### **What is a Medicare Local?**

Although the detail is not clear at this stage, the main features of a Medicare Local will be Commonwealth funded organisations to coordinate the provision of services to local communities through program funding, service integration and improved communication and coordination of primary health care delivery to reduce service gaps and overlap.

This will require the coordination & cooperation, in time, of many different organisations, with strong community input. Our ongoing liaison with local health and community groups including Aboriginal health, community health, hospitals, universities, councils, and so on will help shape the structure and format of Hume Plus Medicare Local. General Practice values the contribution of such groups and is in a unique position to assist in the process of improving ground-level health delivery and push for more appropriate, evidence-based population health measures.

With proper funding of these Medicare Locals (which will be companies limited by guarantee, therefore being directed by members), there are exciting opportunities for improvement of services and communication for the benefits of the community.

We feel it is important to be involved early so we can develop the best model for our region.

**“HELPING YOUR GP TO HELP YOU”**

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