



Nepean GP Network

Newsletter 2017-18

From the Chair

Dr. Hany Gayed

It has been a good year as we move forward in an intention way. I said last year that as *"successive Governments have tried to squeeze Divisions of General Practice out of existence, the Board has been diligently working through ways of maintaining our presence, raising the needs and concerns of our members"*. It was pleasing that at long last the Medicare Rebate freeze has been lifted but there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure the role of General Practice is given due recognition in its diligence and hard work improving the health of the community..

As an Organisation, we are finding our niche, our reason for being. We have tried many ventures along the way and have learnt much. We remain the only dedicated and successful General Practice Organisation within the Penrith LGA.

Of interest was the question of our continuing relationship with Wentwest. The only two GP member organisations, are ourselves and Blue Mountains. As Wentwest no longer provide Registrar training, both Boards questioned our relevance. In the end it was decided it was better to remain a member because of the unknowns in an ever-changing health environment and our long-standing relationship on many fronts within the Greater Western Sydney basin. As usual the Board considered past, present and future implications.

We are recognised as the voice of GPs by our Local Federal Member, Emma Husar MP where we have raised not only our concerns in Health issues but also solutions.

We put in a tender to the PHN for the Integrated Team Care EOI. Although not successful, it enabled us to re-establish past relationships and support from a range of other health organisations.

We have opened a very good dialogue with NBM Local Health District in the area of coordinated health care. Our relationship with the NBM PHN remains strong and we continue to have representation and a voice at Board, Clinical Council and focus group levels.

As our Management and support staff are very much on a casual basis, the Board considered it prudent to address succession planning and multi skilling across our workforce. The Consumer Reference Group continues to provide valuable insights from a community perspective to the Board including participating at our Strategic Planning days. The membership truly represents the demographic population of the Penrith LGA. Whilst not wanting to duplicate what other consumer groups are doing, there has been a concentrated effort to address the voids, as they relate to General Practice.

Under our three support pillars, I am pleased to report specifically on the following activities.

ADVOCATE

The Network continued to raise the impact of the Medicare Rebate freeze, with politicians and the local

media. The meeting between the Member for Lindsay, Emma Husar MP and the Board was very productive. The Board raised 457 Visa's for GPs working under this scheme and voiced its concerns about aspects of the scheme. The recent outsourcing of Nepean After Hours clinic was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the AH GP Clinic, was a wonderful service staffed over the years by a very hard working and dedicated group of doctors and staff. The Board echoed Emma's sentiments, by adding that it was open 365 days in the every 11 ½ years since opening and providing a very ethical, caring and friendly service. We were also invited and attended a Medicare Policy Round Table input meeting, chaired by Emma Husar MP.

Formulated NGPN Policy Statement 1: *That the current number of GPs in our area is sufficient. The yearly reviews of DWS (District Work Shortage) is adequate and we insist that any Doctor coming to practice in Penrith should be fully accredited by the RACGP.*

The involvement of members on the GP Advisory Committee and the GP Clinical Council sponsored by the NBM PHC has enabled the voice of GP to not only be heard, but to help shape health policy.

EDUCATE

We have maintained regular Friday CPD events. This has the benefit of allowing GPs to select subject matter that is of relevance to them. The format also allows greater time for questions and exploring current issues. It also provides an opportunity for GPs to network with their colleagues. We continue to have an input into the PHN organised CPD events.

In addition, we entered into a partnership with One Point Health for CAT 1 ALM CPD series on Musculoskeletal Medicine for the GP, which was very popular.

COMMUNICATE

The hit rate on our Website continues to grow. It enables easy navigation and relevant information to GPs and the community, as well as engendering a greater relationship with Specialists.

Next year we intend to list all financial members with a hyperlink to their practice locations.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

I would like to thank you, the members of the Nepean GP Network, who without your support, we would not be able to continue to be viable, to provide a strong voice and continue to advocate for General Practice.

Congratulations to the Board for their hard work and dedication during the year. I want to acknowledge our Company Secretary, Michael Edwards, whose dedication and hard work has elevated our Network as a professional enterprise, admired by our peers and the community.

I would also like to thank Tina, Dawn, Saskia, Karen, Nattalie and Adam who provide valuable administrative duties and support for the Network. I also acknowledge and thank Lizz Reay the CEO of the PHN and her staff for the continued support during the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holidays as we enjoy the festive season.

Our Vision:

" To be the lead GP organisation in the Nepean area that promotes and supports General Practice in providing optimum primary health care to the community"

Our Mission:

" Excellence in GP's as Primary Health care providers "

ADVOCATE EDUCATE COMMUNICATE

OUR 2017-18 OBJECTIVES

1. Increase paid membership to 100+ within 12 months
2. Provide our membership with pertinent Information, Education & Advocacy and required services
3. Provide networking opportunities between GPs and Registrars, Specialists, Allied Health and other health providers
4. Increase brand awareness among GPs and the community



Dr James Kidd presenting Service awards to Dr Hany Gayed (10 yrs) and Dr Steven Wong (15 Yrs)



Dr Hany Gayed presenting Dr Shiva Prakash OAM, his 15 Year Recognition award



The Board meeting with Emma Husar MP May 2017



From the beginning to the end, Julie Smelt and Ronelle Selway at the opening of the NDGP After Hours Clinic on 13/12/2006


Nepean GP Network

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