



MEDIA RELEASE 06 January 2009

GPRA'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

2009 presents a unique opportunity in the general practice landscape. We will begin to see large increases in the numbers of Australian medical graduates and GPRA would like to ensure that this results in more doctors choosing general practice as their specialty of choice. This will lead to enable a strong primary care workforce providing better access to communities.

We endeavour to bring back the prestige of being a family doctor! This requires change on many levels:

- Public and political recognition that having a strong primary care system with GPs at the centre of effective teams, creates healthier communities and saves health dollars.
- Improvement in the mismatch of income between other specialties and general practice.
- A MBS reform that recognises quality work that is more time consuming, complex or of a preventative nature.
- Launch of World Family Doctors Day in conjunction with WONCA.

We aim for the following changes to support doctors through their training from students to fellowship:

- Ongoing support for initiatives such as GPSN and the GPSN Schwartz First Wave Scholarship to promote general practice in medical schools.
- Funding to launch GP Compass, a similar project targeting prevocational doctors.
- The important role of teaching needs to be recognised with adequate remuneration and funding for infrastructure.
- Increase in the number of GPET training places by 100/year for the next 5 years
- Improved pay for registrars so doctors are not taking a pay cut to enter GP training.
- This requires a review of current payment systems so that the burden is not on supervisors to fund components of our training.

For more information or comment:

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