

PLANNING FOR GIPPSLAND'S MEDICARE LOCAL (GML)

3 October 2011

Dear Members

While the formal decision about establishment of a Gippsland Medicare Local is not expected until next month the Gippsland Divisions are taking steps, in anticipation of a positive response from the Commonwealth, to ensure it is able to hit the ground running.

These steps include:

- Formation of a Gippsland Medicare Local Working Group, with membership from each of the three Divisions of General Practice and the Gippsland Primary Care Health Reform Interest Group
- Appointment of an Executive Officer whose primary role will be to oversee the transition of the three Divisions of General Practice, whose roles will be subsumed into and strengthened by the proposed Gippsland Medicare Local model
- Appointment of a legal firm to provide advice on the transition process

The Gippsland Medicare Local Working Group

The former Gippsland Primary Care Health Reform Interest Group and the Gippsland Divisions Health Reform Steering Committee have come together to form the Gippsland Medicare Local Working Group.

The membership includes two Board members, including the Chairs, from each of the Divisions, three interest group members and the CEO of each Division in an ex-officio capacity.

The Working Group's primary goals, in simple terms, revolve around three phases of transition to the Gippsland Medicare. These include the Formation Phase, the Transition Phase and the Governance Phase.

Formation Phase (September – December 2011)

During this phase the Working Group will undertake a variety of tasks.

These include:

- Drafting of a constitution,
- Appoint a Transition Board
- Seek expression of interest for further membership,

Transition Phase: (Prior to 30 June 2012)

This phase will see the formation of GML as a legal entity. The Transition Board will be put in place to manage a variety of tasks up until the first full member meeting and election of Directors. The Transition Board will include seven members drawn from the Formation Committee members and an independent non-voting chair.

The Interim Board's tasks include to:

- Legally manage the GML
- Call the AGM
- Manage the full election of the Board
- Accept membership
- Appoint a CEO
- Negotiate with Government
- Take formal memberships

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Full Governance Phase (post July 2012 after first AGM)

Once the full Governance model is in place, it is proposed the Board will include nine Directors in total, with five Directors elected from membership and four Directors appointed by elected Directors based on a skill matrix.

The Board will appoint appropriate sub-committees and work closely with the GML Strategic Advisory Committee (peak Advisory Group to the Board) including three sub regional advisory committees and three sub regional GP chapters.

The three sub regional GP chapters will play a key role in defining the key priorities for the GML and its services. The chapters will support on-going networking amongst the general practices in Gippsland and ensure that the knowledge and experience, that has been developed by the divisions over the past 15 years, is retained and the voice of general practice is not lost.

For those of you with further questions about the Gippsland Medicare Local, please email me mbogart@cwgdogp.com.au or contact the Division office on 03 5126 2899.

For the latest Federal Government health reform details visit the [Your Health](#) website.

Yours sincerely

Marg Bogart

Chief Executive Officer

Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice