

Friday 18 March, 2011

## **AGPN set to expand primary health care services for veterans AGPN wins DVA training and resources tender**

Australia's war veterans and war widows who suffer from chronic conditions, have complex care needs and are at risk of an unplanned hospital admission, are set to benefit from a new primary health care program designed to tailor health services for their specific needs.

The Australian General Practice Network's [AGPN] successful bid under the Department of Veterans' Affairs Coordinated Veterans' Care [CVC] Program means improvements will be made in the primary health care sector to create more targeted coordinated care packages and better self-management support for eligible veterans and war widows.

AGPN Chair Dr Emil Djakic said AGPN's role in the four year \$152.7 million CVC Program is to deliver training and resources to General Practitioners and nurse coordinators who will be taking on a greater role in the management of veterans' chronic and complex conditions.

"The aim of the program is to promote and pursue best practice care coordination for GPs and nurses who are in turn, broadening the scope of the primary health care sector," Dr Djakic said.

"The CVC Program is also set to become an excellent 'service template' for primary health care services across the country. This program will provide the integrated, team-based, multidisciplinary care that underpins the basis of a high functioning primary health care system.

"To achieve the Federal Government's primary health care reforms, it means taking on new programs like CVC that broaden the scope of health service delivery in the primary care sector to shift away from the acute sector.

"To develop the coordinated care programs AGPN will be partnering with experts in the field of chronic disease management: Flinders University's Human Behaviour Health Research Unit, the Australian Practice Nurses Association and the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute.

"This combination of expertise along with AGPN's access to GPs and nurse coordinators across the country, will provide an efficient and effective system of care for veterans and war widows who are referred to the program by their GP," Dr Djakic said.

**Media contact: Karen Warner, AGPN Media Adviser on (02) 6228 0819/0438 179 520**