



ADVOCATE

EDUCATE

COMMUNICATE

Summer Newsletter 2015

I believe we are entering into a new era for our organisation. Since the establishment of the Medicare Local and the loss of our previous role and function, it has taken time to re-establish ourselves and find our place in the new regime. The finality of the nexus of any dependency on the Medicare Local required the umbilical cord to be cut and our organisation to fully stand on our own. Your Board has addressed and strategised as to where we should be putting our efforts, within the limited income stream we have, that would most benefit you our members and provide better health outcomes of our community.

We are a valued member of Wentworth Healthcare Ltd. I had the privilege to speak on behalf of GPs in the official launch of the Primary Health Network. It's through the Primary Health Networks that GPs are acknowledged as pivotal in primary healthcare of patients. GPs will have an important role in the Clinical Council. This means that GPs will have a direct voice into the direction and affairs of the newly established Nepean Blue Mountains PHN. We are active on the GP Advisory Committee which of late has addressed such things as Review of Diabetes Services, Demand on ATAPS access, Drug and Alcohol admissions and Aboriginal Health Service.

The formation of the PHN has also meant that there is now greater clarity in service gaps. Areas that we can now address include the continuation of Friday CPD events, input into topics for CPD events and greater scope for advocacy.

During this year we have:

- Moved away from the joint MYOB and setup a standalone Financial Accounting Software.
- Underwriting of Friday CPD events
- Changing our trading name to Nepean GP Network
- Compliance with Associations legislative requirements
- Maintaining active Membership of AGPN, GP NSW, Wentwest and Consumer organisations.
- Maintaining and strengthening the Consumer Reference Group
- Setting up an office outside of Wentworth Healthcare
- Compiling current email lists of Practices and GPs within our boundary
- Active advocacy against GP Co-payments and Level B rebates
- Meetings with the Member for Lindsay, Fiona Scott
- Attended & Submitted paper to Senate Health Enquiry
- Co-Branding with the Medicare Local of information

We are, corporate members with full voting rights of NBM PHN, Wentwest, AGPN, GPNSW and Consumers Health Forum of Australia.

It was appropriate that at the beginning of this financial year we implemented our new agreed change of name to better reflect our ongoing Networking of GPs within the Penrith LGA. A new website is also about to be launched for the **Nepean GP Network**.

The Consumer Reference Group remains our link with the community. Our CRG has a wellness focus with preventive health and education being the main priority. It is truly representative of the Penrith LGA Demographics and is ably co- Chaired by Mr. Joe Rezspecki.

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 say a special thankyou to our CEO Michael Edwards, who has worked tirelessly for the Network making our transition so smooth.

I wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year

Hany Gayed (Chair)