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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Consultation with members to ensure a bright future for GPRRA**

The new CEO of General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRRA), Dr Andrew Gosbell, today announced commencement of a broad-based member consultation.

“The issues facing the future of general practice in Australia and the resultant priorities for GPRRA will be discussed at a national strategy summit at Rydges World Square, Sydney on 1 April,” said Dr Gosbell.

“This summit – *Planning for the Future of General Practice* – will commence a process of member consultation and stakeholder engagement to assist GPRRA in determining strategic priorities and facilitate planning.”

Dr Gosbell said the summit and a national consultation process would ensure GPRRA can:

- Identify and address the needs of key member groups.
- Assist Australia’s future General Practitioners to be successful.
- Effectively contribute to political and government processes and the development of Australia’s health system.
- Work collaboratively and strategically with kindred organisations.

“GPRRA will continue to play an important role in supporting GP registrars with many aspects of the early stages of their career”, said Dr Gosbell.

“National initiatives to increase the number of GPs in Australia and to encourage GP registrars to take up rural placements have had some success. There has been an improvement in the number of GPs, including those working in regional and remote regions. However, there are still areas where there is a significant shortage of GPs”, said Dr Gosbell.

“While withdrawal of Federal Government funding for some GPRA programs is disappointing, but understandable, there are many other important national health priorities that could be more effectively pursued through collaboration and partnerships with Australia’s General Practitioners,” he said.

“GPRA is keen to work with federal and state governments, and other medical and health organisations, to facilitate more effective and cost-efficient prescribing, better management of chronic disease, further consideration of the health care home model of care, and more effective management of obesity, dementia and mental health.”

“Doctors who are just starting their career in general practice can play a critical role in ensuring our future health system can effectively cope with the escalating demands on health care arising from an increasing burden of chronic diseases and an ageing population,” said Dr Gosbell.

**ENDS**

**Dr Andrew Gosbell**

CEO

General Practice Registrars Australia

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