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MEDIA RELEASE

GPRA Welcomes New CEO and Plans a Positive Direction for the Future

The President of General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRA), Dr Melanie Smith welcomes Dr Andrew Gosbell as CEO of the organisation.

“Our new CEO, Dr Andrew Gosbell, joins us next week and we are looking forward to him leading our review processes to further enhance GPRA as a dynamic organisation for the future,” said Doctor Smith.

“Dr Gosbell joins GPRA from the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, where he was Deputy CEO and Director Policy & Research. He has considerable experience in health, education, research and advocacy,” she said.

“General Practice training has been through many changes recently and the needs of our members have also changed. GPRA is planning for the future to ensure the services delivered match the dynamic nature of the industry and remain relevant to our membership.”

“GPRA has therefore decided to postpone the annual conference, *The Future of General Practice 2017*, in order to devote our energy and resources to a planning process that will ensure our organisation is on point with the needs of doctors undertaking General Practice training,” said Doctor Smith.

“GPRA under the guidance of our new CEO will, instead, conduct a strategic review of our role and functions, with a focus on how we can create enduring value for our

members," she said. "Within that context we will review scope for future events for sharing ideas and information."

"The review will consider the dynamics of change within the profession and how state and federal governments are facilitating or responding to those changes," said Doctor Smith.

"We will facilitate staged consultation with members, and other key stakeholders, with a robust focus on best options for developing and delivering appropriate support and services to our members."

"Stage one will begin in early April, when the conference was originally planned to have taken place, with a symposium consisting of member representatives from across Australia. This will involve planning and scoping a national consultation process to identify priority issues to be addressed on behalf of our future General Practitioners," said Doctor Smith.

"Although some people may be disappointed regarding the postponement of the GPRA conference, it should be seen as an action within the context of an organisation that is committed to the continuing success and well-being of Australia's General Practitioners," she said.

"We have an exciting array of ideas for the future and we are looking forward to engaging our members in innovative ways over the coming months to set key goals and action priorities," said Doctor Smith.

ENDS

Dr Melanie Smith

President

General Practice Registrars Australia

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