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MEDIA RELEASE

GPRRA Summit Success

The President of General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRRA), Dr Melanie Smith today said the weekend National Strategy Summit had been a great success.

“Over 60 people came from across Australia to discuss the strategic direction for our organisation,” said Doctor Smith.

“It was clear from the various comments and ideas put forward during the National Strategic Summit that there is compelling national support for a strong voice for General Practice registrars and students,” she said.

“Our Summit identified critical issues and will shape our strategic direction and how we allocate resources for the future.”

“From this Summit, and further consultation, we will create a robust vision for the changes and improvements that are necessary for ensuring that, as future GPs, we can actually improve the health care of all Australians,” said Doctor Smith.

“As GPRRA moves forward, we will need to operate with a clear understanding and analysis of the changes that have taken place within our profession in recent years and the political forces that have driven those changes ”

“The Summit gives us a valuable starting point for analysing and responding to the dynamics of political and health thinking in Australia. It is the first step in a national consultation process, setting strategic priorities and allocating resources to secure outcomes of real value to our members,” she said.

“The keynote presentations by Professor Michael Kidd, Professor Di O’Halloran and Professor Simon Willcock provided valuable insights into the dynamics of the political and social environment surrounding General Practice.”

“Their knowledge of critical national and international developments provided a useful framework for the Summit processes that followed,” said Doctor Smith.

“GPRA CEO, Dr Andrew Gosbell, said three immediate priorities have been set by the Board as a result of the Summit.”

“Firstly, we must enhance engagement with members and that means effective communications. This will include listening to their concerns and aspirations, taking robust action to address their concerns, and keeping them informed of what we are doing on their behalf.”

“The second priority is to source new opportunities to support a more relevant range of service offerings for members. This will also ensure successful completion of new initiatives identified as a result of the Summit,” he said.

“The third priority is to improve our stakeholder engagement and this means planning and implementing dialogue and collaboration with organisations that support General Practice or could be strategic allies. It also means engaging with agencies, organisations and individuals that operate within the broader political environment,” said Dr Gosbell.

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https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_QjTEOOFII4V1RGWEJZS3RvVms/view

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Details of Keynote Speakers

1. Professor Michael Kidd
From 2013-2016 Michael was President of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA). He is currently Professor of Global Primary Care at Flinders University. He is a past president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, a Council Member of the Australian Government’s National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), and a board member of several health organisations, including *beyondblue*. He is the Patron of GPRA and GPSN.

2. Professor Simon Willcock
Simon is Director of Primary Care Services at Macquarie University Hospital and Health Sciences Centre. Simon is also Chair of Avant Mutual Group Limited. Simon was Professor of General Practice, the Sydney Medical Program, the University of Sydney 2009-2015. He was a senior staff specialist at Hornsby General Practice from 1990 to 2015 and was Chair of GPET from 2006 to 2012.

3. Professor Di O'Halloran
Di is Conjoint Professor, Department of General Practice, Western Sydney University. Di is also Chair of WentWest, the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (PHN), a member of the Western Sydney Local Health District Board, Co-Chair of the NSW ACI GP Clinical Advisory Group, and Chair of the new NSW&ACT PHN Council.