

## UNITED GENERAL PRACTICE AUSTRALIA

### Outcomes Statement for meeting held on 28 January 2015

ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND ACTIONS
1	<b>Future of UGPA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UGPA was established as an informal group without Terms of Reference (ToR)</li> <li>More recently, UGPA has started to publicise actions, media releases and submissions – which require more formal records, and potentially ToR</li> <li>Whilst UGPA members will not always agree on issues, UGPA needs to focus on where each organisation does find agreement.</li> <li>The role of UGPA should be to remind Government and other stakeholders that there are issues that all general practice groups agree on.</li> <li>UGPA has the best representation of general practice leaders in Australia. Where possible, a unified voice will strengthen arguments.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Update on GP training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boundaries, time frames and process for GP training are all still “with the Minister”</li> </ul>
3	<b>Discussion with Minister: Clarify general practice training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At meeting on 16 December with Minister Dutton, it was agreed that colleges would formulate combined proposals that included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement for governance of committee</li> <li>Appointment by Minister of Chair and GP expert</li> <li>Secretariat provided by the colleges.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Minister Ley has advised that these combined proposals from Colleges are still proceeding.</li> <li>The understanding of the group was that this governance committee would manage transition arrangements.</li> <li>Open dialogue is required once the proposal is submitted on 2 February 2015.</li> <li>GP led selection process and costs of medical education need to be assessed.</li> <li>Minister Ley confirmed that she will action the above general practice training concerns as soon as possible.</li> </ul>

4	<b>Discussion with Minister: Sustainable general practice funding</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister is consulting widely with GPs.</li> <li>GP roundtables have commenced between Minister Ley and GPs around Australia.</li> <li>Co-payment remains Liberal policy, but they are looking at a “price signal” as opposed to cuts.</li> <li>Minister Ley assured that the Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are not “picking on” general practice</li> <li>that they do not want young doctors to avoid general practice</li> <li>believes change is needed for the whole health system, not just Medicare</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Government believes that a number of funding initiatives in general practice are a “bolt on” approach (e.g. GPMPs, TCAs, PIPs, SIPs)</li> <li>The Government will start conversations with the States, leading to the federation white paper.</li> <li>Government believes if funding is lessened, GPs can charge patients more.</li> </ul>
5	<b>Discussion with Minister: Primary Health Networks (PHNs)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare Locals failed because there was a lack of input from general practice.</li> <li>Minister advised that the focus has moved away from providing services to purchasing services, and that a focus on prevention will be key</li> <li><b>Action: UGPA to release media statement on PHNs and write to Minister in accompaniment – <i>Media release put on hold (Friday 13 February 2015)</i></b></li> </ul>
6	<b>Discussion with Minister: Prevocational General Practice Placements Program (PGPPP)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UGPA is optimistic that the current expert panel will come up with some great solutions, and look forward to outcomes.</li> <li>General practice does not have a junior doctor profile without PGPPP.</li> <li><b>UGPA to release media statement on prevocational community based training, advising that the PGPPP was a useful program and universally supported.</b></li> </ul>
7	<b>Discussion with Minister: Red tape</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In response to an invitation by the Minister to provide ideas for reducing red-tape, UGPA called for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the removal of authority numbers</li> <li>a reduction in paperwork for TCAs</li> <li>a 3GA exemption for training</li> <li>the removal of medical certificates (paid for by Medicare) for short term conditions</li> <li>the streamlining of accreditation requirements for general practices (e.g. combining general practice and training accreditation)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Minister Ley advised that the Department of Health has a deregulation team and invited UGPA to write and address these concerns.</li> <li><b>Each organisation is invited to write to the Minister regarding deregulation of red tape.</b></li> </ul>

<b>8</b>	<b>UGPA Terms of Reference</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members to consider ToR and provide feedback.</li> <li>• Will be raised at next UGPA meeting</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>Next UGPA meeting</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 25 March 2015 from 11 am to 1 pm (followed by lunch) at RACGP NSW Faculty – Level 7, 12 Mount Street North Sydney</li> </ul>