

## Comorbidity Network Pilot Program

and the

## Building on 'Can Do' Grants Program

The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) has been funded by the Department of Health and Ageing, Drugs Strategies Branch to implement the **Primary Health Care Comorbidity Network Pilot Program** (the 'Pilot Network') and to administer the 'Building on Can Do Grants Program' for the Divisions' Network.

### Why a Comorbidity Network?

The purpose of the Pilot Network is to build partnerships with the alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector at national and state levels and to encourage multi-disciplinary approaches to the management of people with comorbidity through outreach, liaison and negotiation with allied health professionals outside of the general practice setting.

### What will the Network do?

The Network will build specifically on the activities that form part of the *National Comorbidity Initiative* (NCI) and the *Improved Services for People with Drug and Alcohol Problems and Mental Health Initiative* (Improved Services Measure), linking them to the primary health care environment and ensuring they have primary health care input.

The expected outcomes of the Pilot Network are

- improved liaison and collaboration between
  - state AOD services
  - state mental health services
  - the non government health service sector
  - community support groups
  - community services; and
  - consumer and carer organisations

- improved service delivery to patients with mental health and substance use comorbidity as a result of the above.

### Grants Categories

There are 4 categories of grants available and all divisions will be able to apply for one or more grants.

**Category 1** – up to \$65,000 per division comorbidity prevention, early intervention and education

**Category 2** – up to \$65,000 per division for the maintenance of multidisciplinary networks at the local level

**Category 3** – up to \$40,000 per division for enhanced skills development

**Category 4** – up to \$25,000 per division for consumer support

A national Advisory & Assessment Panel will consider applications and award the grants, which will be administered directly by AGPN

Funding for grants will cover the period until May 2010.

For more information please contact:

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