

26 September 2001

ADGP Budget Bulletin

Update on Practice Nurse initiative

The Budget provided funding of \$104.3 million over four years to assist general practices to employ more nurses.

The Practice Nursing PIP incentive is a key component of the Budget initiative. The incentive offers a means for general practices to improve the quality and accessibility of health care for their community.

The initiative has been developed in consultation with the General Practice Memorandum of Understanding Group, other professional representatives, expert advisory groups and community and consumer groups.

Practice Nurse incentives will be available to:

- all PIP practices in Rural and Remote Area Classification (RRMA) 3-7;
- some PIP practices in RRMA 1-2 where there is both a low doctor to patient ratio and patients with low socio-economic status; and
- Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) participating in PIP are included in the target group.

The incentive amount will be around \$8,000 per FTE GP. Practices in RRMA 4-7 will also attract the PIP rural loading. The incentive payment is capped at a maximum of one FTE nurse per practice, ie. 5000 Standard Whole Patient Equivalents (SWPEs).

Practices receiving the incentive payment must employ or retain the services of a registered or enrolled nurse, registered in the jurisdiction, for the equivalent of two sessions per week per full time GP.

The first incentive payment is scheduled for the February 2002 PIP payment run and will cover the period November 2001 to January 2002. Quarterly payments will then continue in line with PIP practice payment runs, ie. May, August, November and February.

What Happens Next?

PIP practices eligible to apply for the practice nurse incentive will receive an application form from the Health Insurance Commission in November 2001.

REMINDER:

Accreditation deadline: To receive payments next year, PIP practices that joined the program before 1 January 2001 **MUST** be fully accredited by 1 January 2002. Please ring the PIP enquiry line for further information: 1800 222 032.