

# State of Play of the Frankston Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local

February 2012

The Frankston Mornington Peninsula Medicare Local (FMPML) has been in existence for little over 1 month.

## FMPML Board Activities

The main focus of the Board of Governance since the Federal Government announced that our application was successful in November 2011 has been to establish a company that will allow the FMPML to achieve its aims over the ensuing years. The development of a constitution that will determine how the company operates is well underway. These activities have required expert advice and guidance.

*The main focus of the FMPML will be to:*

1. Improve the patient journey through developing integrated and coordinated services
2. Provide support to clinicians and service providers to improve patient care
3. Identify the health needs of our area and develop locally focused and responsive services
4. Facilitate the implementation of primary health care initiatives and programs
5. Be efficient and accountable with strong governance and effective management

Our first objective is to appoint a Chief Executive Officer. The FMPML has contracted a recruitment agency to assist us in this endeavor. A short list has been compiled and interviews will be completed by the middle of February. We expect that an announcement will be made shortly after. Once a CEO is appointed, the operational aspect of the FMPML will be developed.

The FMPML will be moving quickly to develop a committee structure that will provide varied stakeholder input into key aspects of the ML's charter. It is expected that one of the most important areas to be included in the Committee structure will be Population Health. We anticipate that any committee structure will work with all of the organisations that have involvement in primary care on the Mornington Peninsula (which includes Peninsula Health, Primary Care Partnership, Peninsula GP Network, Local Governments, State Government and Monash University). This will greatly enhance planning capacity in the Frankston Mornington Peninsula catchment.

## Whole of Regions Needs Assessment for After Hours Primary Care

The Government has determined that a major activity of all Medicare Locals is to undertake a whole-of-region needs assessment that identifies gaps in after hours primary care. Once this scoping activity has been completed, a needs assessment will be developed and a plan that addresses the after hours needs in our area will be implemented. This has created great consternation amongst the general practitioners. We will endeavor to invite all of those who are involved in primary after hours healthcare to participate in this assessment and plan.

## Communication Strategy

A communication strategy will be developed to keep all informed of the progress of our Medicare Local After Hours Program as well as other activities of the Medicare Local.

We believe that FMPML has much to offer our community in a similar way that the General Practice Division had much to offer the General Practice community when it was established in the early 1990s. There was great cynicism and apprehension amongst most GPs back then, but it was slowly realised that GP Divisions could have a positive role in improving health care through General Practice. Medicare Locals have broadened the landscape to involve other primary care organisations and practitioners to further enhance the development of a more integrated and functional primary care system.

## Recent FMPML Appointment

The FMPML is currently in the embryonic stages of development. Lyn McKay (formerly Service System Redevelopment Coordinator with Frankston Mornington Peninsula Primary Care Partnership) was recently appointed to the position of Support Officer to the Board. Enquiries relating to the FMPML should be directed to Lyn who can be contacted through the Peninsula GP Network's office on 9708 8019.

## Challenges Ahead!

Some would argue that one of the few promises Malcolm Fraser kept was "Life was not meant to be easy"! There are considerable challenges ahead of the FMPML. However, with strong leadership, a dynamic organisation and involvement of the grass roots practitioners, we believe that the FMPML will make a positive difference to the delivery of primary care on the Mornington Peninsula.

Michael Cross  
Chair, FMPML