

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (11/12/2007)

**Improvement Foundation Australia
Awarded National Primary Care Collaboratives Tender.**

The Department of Health and Ageing has awarded the National Primary Care Collaboratives tender to Improvement Foundation Australia (IFA). The next phase of the program, to be known as the Australian Primary Care Collaboratives (APCC), will commence in 2008 with the first of 7 state based waves, followed by local workshops delivered at the divisional level to spread and implement change.

The main aims of this outstanding program, which has already achieved brilliant results for practices all over Australia, are the improvement of patient health outcomes and the development of a culture of quality improvement within primary care.

“We want to work with the AGPN and the broader network to build capacity and embed key elements of quality improvement within primary care organisations”, Colin Frick, IFA Chief Operating Officer said.

Colin went onto explain: “It’s our intention to introduce improvements to the program, such as more flexible options for divisions to participate and a wider emphasis on training divisional staff in quality improvement techniques.”

Measurement is a vital component of the effectiveness of the APCC Program and by introducing improvements to the data reporting process, time spent on manual online reporting will be reduced considerably. Through the program’s online reporting site divisions will have the opportunity to build upon and extend their quality improvement work to other population health areas, such as immunisation, asthma and other health indicators.

An advocate of the program Dr. Tony Lembke, of the Alstonville Clinic in NSW, had this to say: “The Collaborative Program has been described as one of the most positive innovations in Australian primary care and I have to agree. As a participant in Wave 1, then the Clinical Chair of the Program for Wave 2 and 3, I was amazed to see the improvements being made by practices (including my own) simply by implementing small

changes in their systems and measuring the results. Practices involved have greatly improved the management of their patients with diabetes and coronary heart disease, freed up the time of doctors and increased practice income as a result of this program. Participants gain confidence, motivation and a framework to make a real difference in how their practice runs and the level of care they provide for their patients.”

For more information visit www.improve.org.au or call (08) 8422 7400