

New Psychiatry Support Service for GPs

The *Access to Advice from Psychiatrists in an Urgent Situation* service provides GPs with quality clinical advice from psychiatrists within a 24-hour timeframe, on management and/or treatment of patients with an urgent mental health problem. GPs believe the service will provide much needed support in the acute care of mentally ill patients by improving communication and timely access to psychiatrists' advice.

The service is funded by the Australian Government as part of the *Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care* Initiative. ADGP research has shown that GPs want the *Better Outcomes* program expanded, particularly in the area of increasing access to specialist support for GPs. ADGP is working closely with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists to develop some specific options to improve communication and collaborative care between GPs and psychiatrists.

To access the service, GPs can call 1800 200 588 or email secure site, www.psychsupport.com.au. For more information about the scope and objectives of this service, please contact Katie Barwell on 02-9425 3738