

## Medical Assisting graduates recognised

**For immediate release: 1 September 2011**

Graduates from the first two student intakes in Queensland of a nationally accredited training course designed to equip general practice staff with a wide range of administrative and clinical assisting skills were recognised last night at a ceremony in Brisbane.

Queensland Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining, Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP, and Professor Claire Jackson, President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, were among the invited speakers helping to celebrate the occasion.

The Certificate IV in Medical Practice Assisting was developed in collaboration with GPs, practice staff and practice nurses as an innovative solution to the workforce pressures facing general practice in Australia. It was incorporated into the National Health Training Package in 2007.

In her address to the graduates, Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local CEO Ms Abbe Anderson congratulated them on their achievement and thanked Minister Hinchliffe and Professor Jackson for their valuable support.

"I am immensely proud of what has been accomplished both locally and state-wide through this training initiative," Ms Anderson said.

"We originally pioneered the course in Queensland in 2004, but it is the graduates who are the real pioneers and who now join their Medical Assisting colleagues all over the globe where this qualification has a proud 60 year history and proven track record," Ms Anderson said.

"Last night's graduation of 47 students was a credit to all involved, from the course organisers and participants, to the various medical, nursing and other organisations which were involved with the original development of the course," she said.

"The graduating students are all currently employed in general practice and many work in rural and regional areas of Queensland.

"Our newly qualified Medical Assistants will make a positive contribution to the delivery of primary health care in Queensland, particularly so where it is more difficult to recruit GPs or nurses in sufficient numbers.

"Medical Assistants will help General Practice to better manage patient demand. For example, they give practice nurses more time to participate in higher level patient services, such as nurse led clinics and home health assessments," she said.

The Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local and Healthfirst Training Australia offer the Certificate IV in Medical Practice Assisting in Queensland.

Healthfirst Training Australia is a Registered Training Organisation and provider of Nationally Accredited Qualifications from the Health Training Package.

All students participate in the course with the assistance of Productivity Places Program (PPP) funding brokered through the Health and Community Services Workforce Council.

The PPP is funded by the Queensland Department of Education and Training as part of a joint initiative of the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments.

### **About Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local**

The Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local was established by GPpartners Ltd, the division of general practice located on Brisbane's north side.

On 1 July 2011, GPpartners Ltd transferred its programs, services and staff to the Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local, which became the first fully functional Medicare Local in Australia.

The Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local will work with health services and support the communities within Brisbane's northern suburbs, the Moreton Bay Regional Council and a small part of the Somerset Regional Council.

This region has an approximate population of 853,378 and is predominantly an urban region but also includes regional and rural areas in the far northern and western areas of the catchment.

The region includes the areas formerly covered by GPpartners Ltd and Moreton Bay General Practice Network, and aligns with the Metro North Local Hospital Network.

### ENDS ###

#### **Media contact:**

Simon Brooks  
Tel: 07 3630 7330

**Certificate IV in Medical  
Practice Assisting –  
Graduation Ceremony 2011**



**Above:** Graduates who attended the ceremony from the two Medical Assisting classes, with course trainers and invited keynote speakers.



**Above:** Congratulating the graduates after the ceremony, which was held in the Captain's Room at the Allan Border Field, Albion.



**Left:** Keynote speakers (L-R) Professor Claire Jackson (RACGP President), Ms Abbe Anderson (CEO – Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local) and the Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining, Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP.