

Australian Medical Association Limited
ABN 37 008 426 793

42 Macquarie Street, Barton ACT 2600: PO Box 6090, Kingston ACT 2604
 Telephone: (02) 6270 5400 Facsimile (02) 6270 5499
 Website : <http://www.ama.com.au/>



**SMART STRATEGIC MOVE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE
 COAG WITH THE NATIONAL CABINET**

AMA President, Dr Tony Bartone, today congratulated the Government on its strategic decision to replace the moribund Council of Australian Governments (COAG) process with the more agile and cooperative National Cabinet, which has been hugely successful in steering Australia through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Bartone said the AMA called for this change earlier this month.

“The National Cabinet has been agile and focused in its deliberations and decision making,” Dr Bartone said.

“Above all, it has been informed by the best available medical advice from the Australian Health Protection Principals Committee (AHPPC), which is made up of Chief Medical Officers from the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

“The successful approach to this major health crisis sets an example for future responses to other areas of policy and politics that affect all Australians. Put simply – listen to the experts.

“Coalition and Labor Governments have worked in unison to provide the best possible responses to help their local communities.

“They have acted quickly, cooperatively, and effectively to protect the health of the Australian people.

“There has been a minimum of red tape and bureaucracy, and a minimum of dispute.

“This is what good government can achieve.

“More than ever, we need to continue with this level of cooperation going forward. We need to ensure ongoing patient care and easy access to care in a period of significant transformation and enormous challenges for our health system as we come out of COVID-19.

“The AMA looks forward to working with the National Cabinet and all governments in the future as Australia moves beyond the COVID-19 crisis and on to new challenges and opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians.”

30 May 2020

CONTACT: John Flannery 02 6270 5477 / 0419 494 761
 Maria Hawthorne 02 6270 5478 / 0427 209 753

Follow the AMA Media on Twitter: http://twitter.com/ama_media
 Follow the AMA President on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/amapresident>
 Follow *Australian Medicine* on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/amaausmed>
 Like the AMA on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianMedicalAssociation>