



**AMA Family  
Doctor Week 2018**  
YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR:  
HERE FOR YOU



**Your Family Doctor: Here for You  
AMA South Australia celebrates GPs' role for Family Doctor Week**

***AMA Family Doctor Week, 22-28 July 2018***

General practitioners play a vital role in our health system, and each year the AMA celebrates that role with its national Family Doctor Week. This year, Family Doctor Week is being held from 22-28 July, with the theme 'Your Family Doctor: Here for You'.

"Family Doctor Week is a great opportunity to stop and think about your health, the years ahead and what a trusted family doctor can do for you," said AMA South Australia state president Associate Professor William Tam.

"Perhaps it is an opportunity to book a visit to see your GP and catch up on a health check, or get advice on a problem or concern that has been troubling you. Perhaps it is a time to find a regular GP if you do not have one: someone you can go to for those more difficult or complex problems, as well as the day-to-day."

"Having a great GP who you trust is an investment in your future health and wellbeing. It means you have a place to go when you need help, where someone with expertise and an important referral network can help you with both the day-to-day things such as vaccinations and checkups, to the more tricky matters such as dealing with chronic disease, the aftermath of injury or sickness, mental health, and a range of situations that can come up as we grow older."

"Having a great GP is important and helpful in good times, but it's also an insurance policy when things go wrong. A regular GP and general practice is like your 'medical home' – a place where your records are, together with someone who knows you, and has a long-term investment in your health and future."

"GPs are at the front lines of care in the community, and they also play a vital role in standing up for their patients – both in advocating for people to get the right help, and also to the system, as an alarm bell for when things are not working. When parts of the health system are not performing well, GPs may be the first to see the effects, and what it means to their communities."

"GP visits are funded via Medicare and often general practice is seen as more of a federal government responsibility, but it is vital that the state health system understands what GPs do and engages with them in a meaningful way on state health matters."

"That is an important message that the AMA(SA) has for the new state government and the SA Health system, under its new CEO. When people need to engage with the health system, they often rely on their GPs to help steer them. GPs are ideally placed to do just that, but they need to be kept informed, and heard."

"GPs are health champions, so let's make the most of the expertise they offer!"

**23 July 2018**

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## AMA Family Doctor Week 2018

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AMA Family Doctor Week (Sunday 22 July to Saturday 28 July 2018) highlights the role of GPs – our family doctors – and their value to the community and the health system as they deliver high-quality holistic health care.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) cites Australia as having one of the best health systems in the world. Its strength stems from general practice and the pivotal role of the general practitioner.

GPs are the first port of call when Australians feel unwell, and GPs manage 90 per cent of the problems they encounter. In Australia, 83 per cent of the population visit a GP at least once a year. Ninety-three per cent of Australians return to same practice, and 78 per cent of patients have a preferred GP. GPs are also the most used and trusted source of child health information.

In 2016-17:

- Australia had 35,942 GPs
- GPs provided 145.6 million non-referred attendance (NRA) services, or 6,089 services for each full service equivalent (FSE) GP
- 45.4 per cent of GPs were female
- 14 per cent of GPs were aged 65 years and older
- 40.6 per cent of GPs were trained overseas.

In 2015, there were:

- 4,936 GP training positions/trainees (out of a total of 20,069 training positions)
- 1,529 First Year GP registrars
- 3,812 Female GP Registrars
- 2,459 GP Registrars completing general practice training through the rural pathway
- 55 per cent increase in training numbers between 2011-2015

Usual GP:

- 78 per cent of patients have a preferred usual GP
- 98 per cent of people aged 45 and over have a usual GP
- 93 per cent of Australians always go to the same general practice.

Find out more at: <https://ama.com.au/family-doctor-week-2018> and <https://ama.com.au/resources/general-practice>

### Sources:

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