SADI IT/IM Forum - Day
'Access to Broadband Taskforce' Summary

The Federal Department of IT, Communications and Arts have allocated 9.2 million to fund practices in RRMA 4-7 in the uptake of broadband. At a meeting today with Carol McQuine I was made aware of future funding for eligible practices as a once of payment as an to install broadband.

The amounts for the 'connectivity' payment is yet to announced (late May), however they are likely to be tiered around networked, home (baseline) and security levels (enhanced). The later with a likely link to the new PIP incentives. The practices will also be encourage to utilize the HBIS scheme (www.dcita.gov.au/) to get reduced ISP charges. Practices with broadband will still be able to get the payment. There is no indication of auditing or assessment of use by the practices.

The taskforce have produced a report resulting from the recent survey, a copy of the report can be downloaded from www.adgp.com.au

The Commonwealth have also budgeted to fund SBOs to the tune of 50-60K FTE between June 04 and May 03 to support the rollout. This is potentially problematic as it is bypassing Divisions, which will be an essential mechanism for information dissemination. The Commonwealth will be shortly sending SADI a draft contract. This will also raised at the IT/IM forum day 1.

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