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# Rethinking Referral Pathways: Increasing Access to Intrauterine Contraception

GPIIN: General Practice IUD Inserter Network – a pilot project

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## Background / Purpose

- Rates of unintended pregnancies in Australia high[1].
- Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) methods (intrauterine devices (IUD)/implants) effective in reducing unintended pregnancy[2].
- LARC use in Australia is low compared to comparable middle-to-high income countries[1].
- Specialised training required to insert IUD – training opportunities limited.
- Access to skilled IUD inserters in primary health settings is a barrier to wider IUD uptake by women[3].
- GPs traditionally work in 'silos' and operate competitive businesses, only referring to specialists.

## Aims of GPIIN Project:

+ **identify, develop, train, implement, support and evaluate four General Practice (GP) Intrauterine Device (IUD) inserter networks in QLD/NSW**
+ **offer models for sustainable upscaling of GPIINs to other geographic locations across Australia**

## Approach

- Identified 4 network locations (QLD, 3; NSW, 1).

### Resources & Protocols Developed

- Referral protocols and tools
- IUD Inserter Network kit

### Network Implementation

- Co-ordination, Education, Support

### Mixed Methods Evaluation

- Quantitative analysis IUD activity
- Qualitative interviews with Network facilitators and GPs

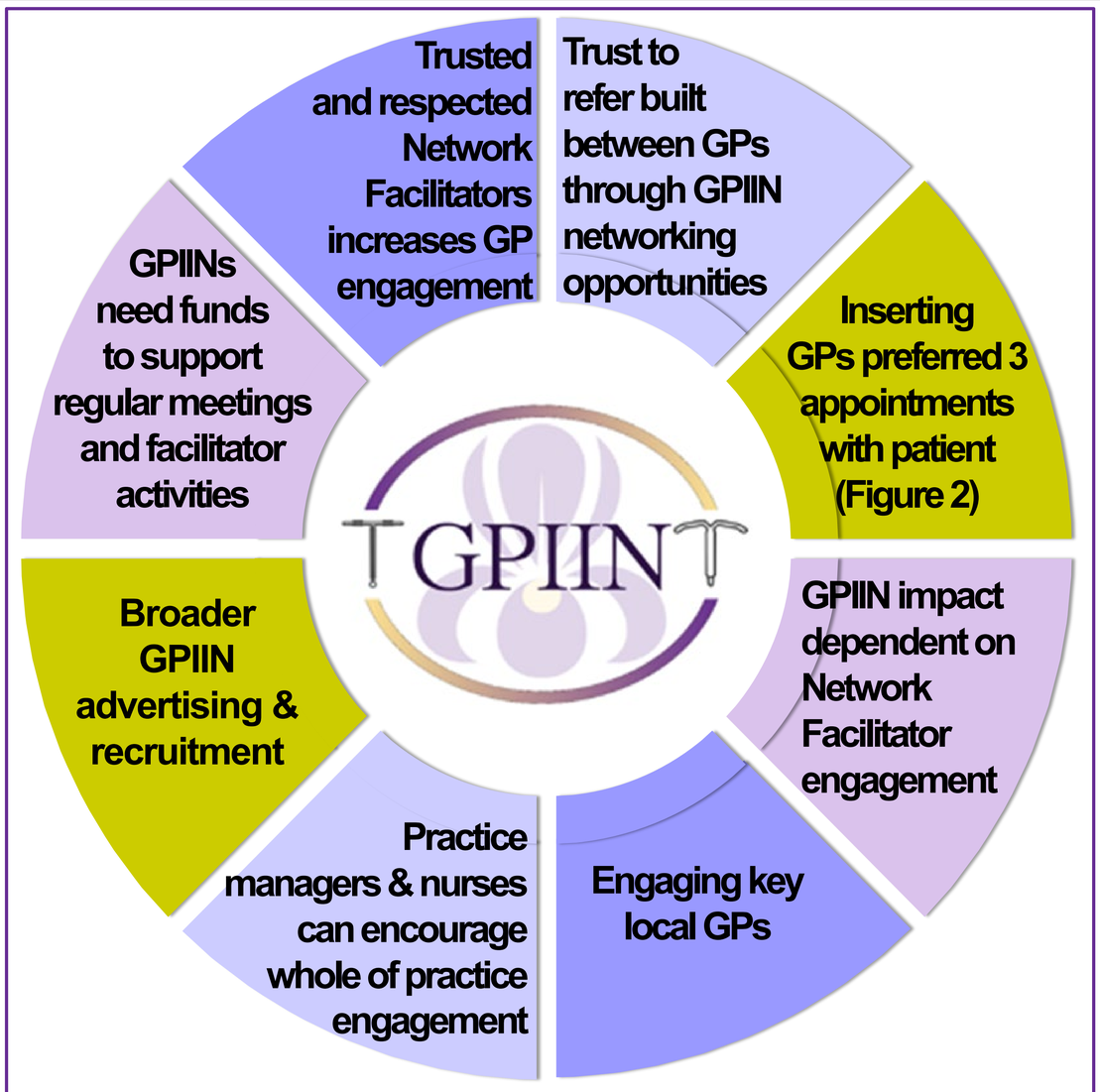


**Figure 1: Factors identified as contributing to successful GPIIN**

## Outcomes and Impacts

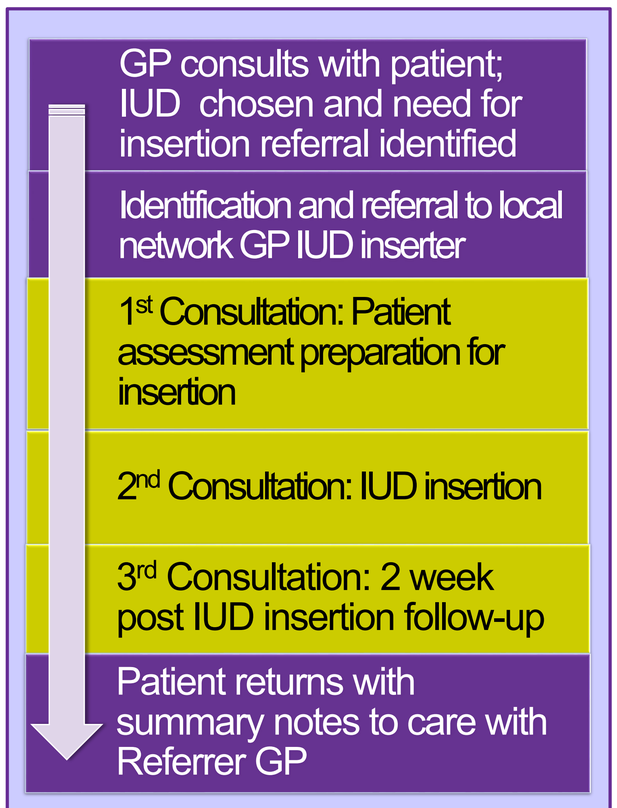


**Figure 2: Refined GP-to-GP Referral Pathway**

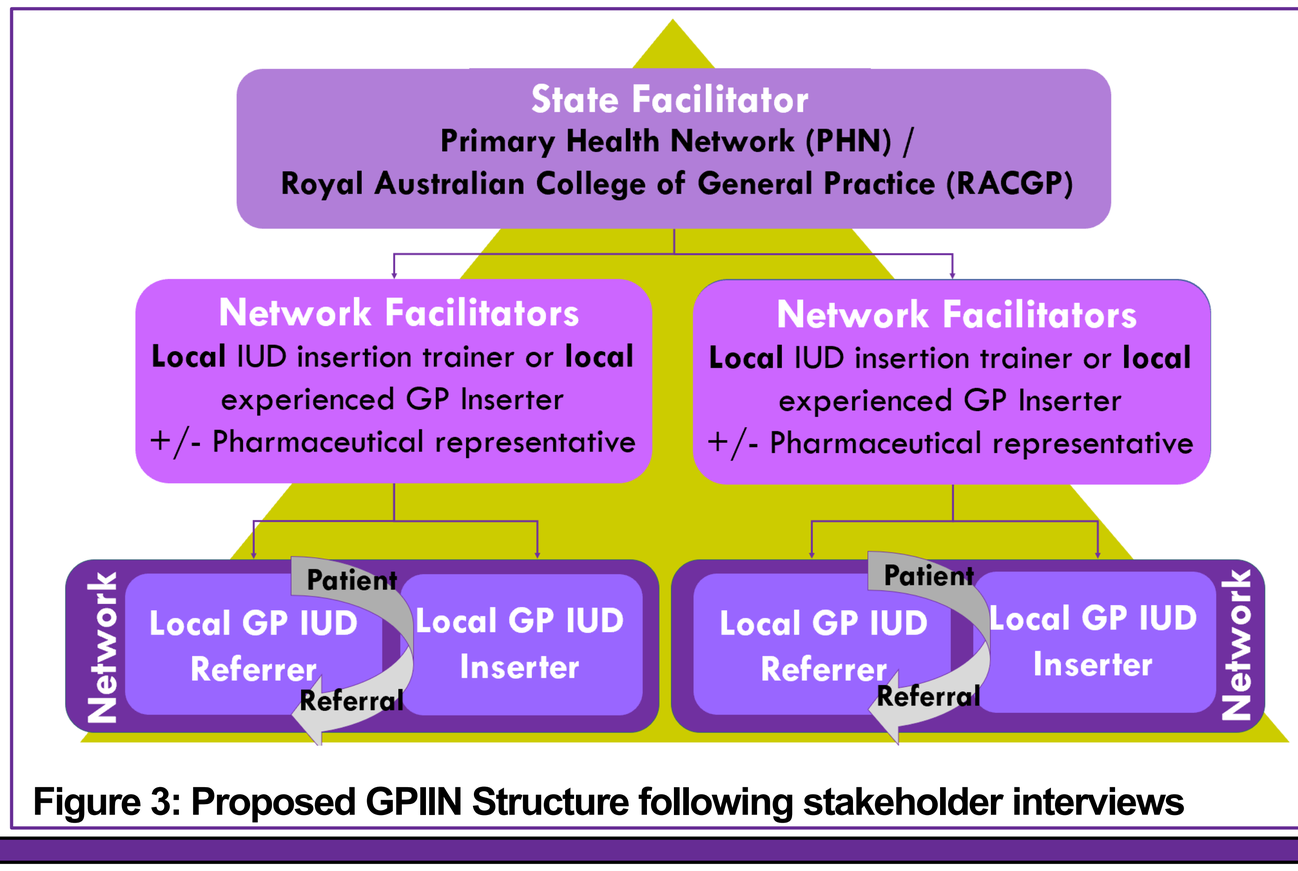


**Figure 3: Proposed GPIIN Structure following stakeholder interviews**

## Innovation & Significance

- **Timely innovative rethinking of "local referral pathways"** to build and enhance GP-to-GP referral networks is needed to progress establishing GPIIN networks in different settings across Australia.
- Development of **streamlined local referral pathways** and **GP communities of practice** could increase IUD access for women.
- Future activity: **Involve Primary Health Networks** to continue building this GP-to-GP referral model.

## References

1. Black KI, Bateson D, Harvey C. Australian women need increased access to long-acting reversible contraception. Med J Aust. 2013;199(5):317-8.
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## Disclosure of Interest Statement

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## Study Registration details

UQHREC Approval Number 2018001958

## Further information

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