

# 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<sup>1</sup>.
- ↑ Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) methods (intrauterine devices (IUD)/implants) effective in reducing unintended pregnancy<sup>2</sup>.
- ↑ LARC use in Australia is low compared to comparable middle-to-high income countries<sup>1</sup>.
- ↑ 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<sup>3</sup>.
- ↑ 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

## 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.
2. Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia. Contraception: An Australian Clinical Practice Handbook. In: Family Planning NSW FPQ, Family Planning Victoria, editor. 3rd ed. Ashfield, NSW: Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia; 2012.
3. Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia. Time for a Change: Increasing the Use of Long Acting Reversible Contraception Methods in Australia. Canberra: SHFPA, 2013.

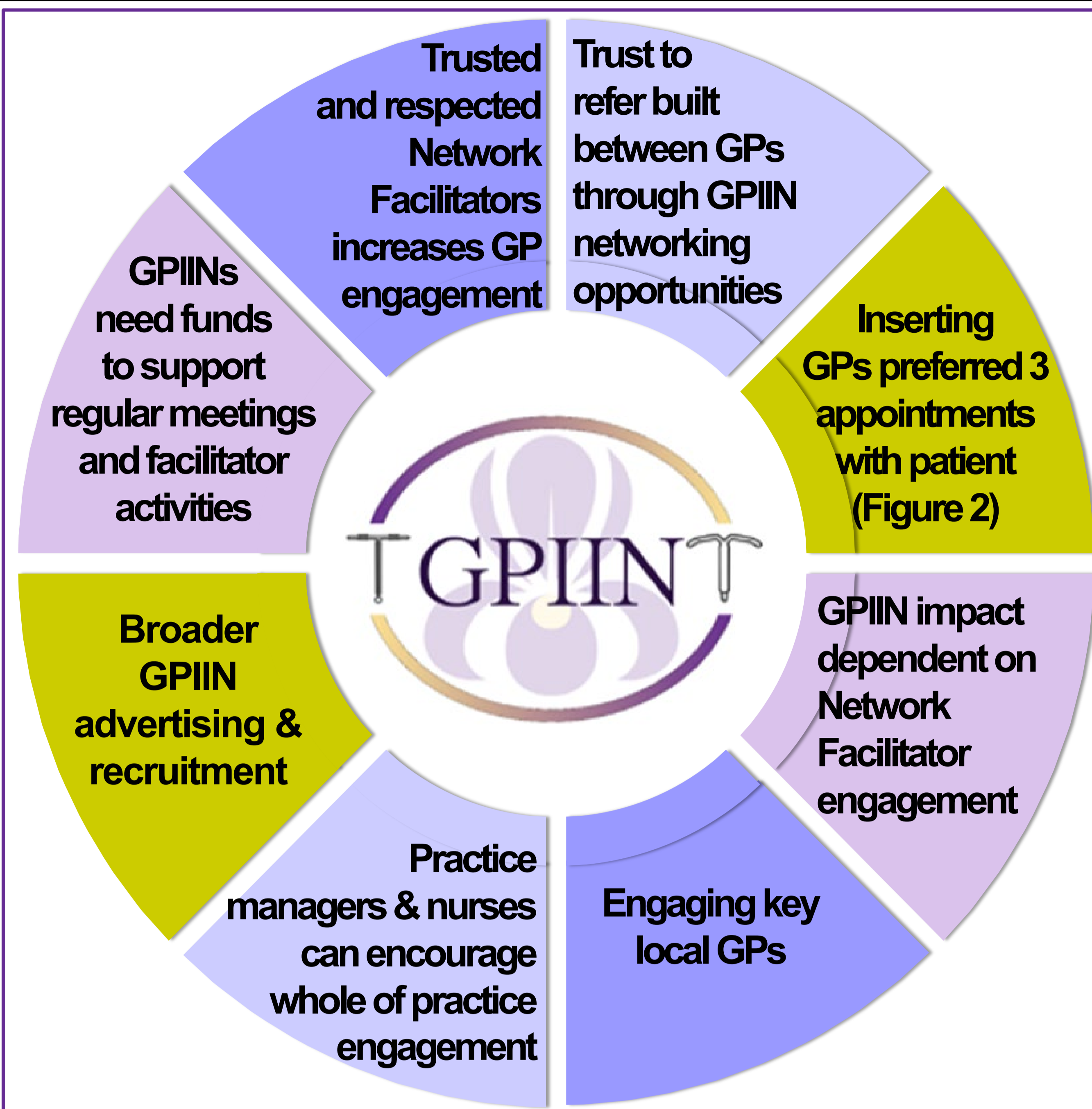


Figure 1: Factors identified as contributing to successful GPIIN

## Outcomes and Impacts

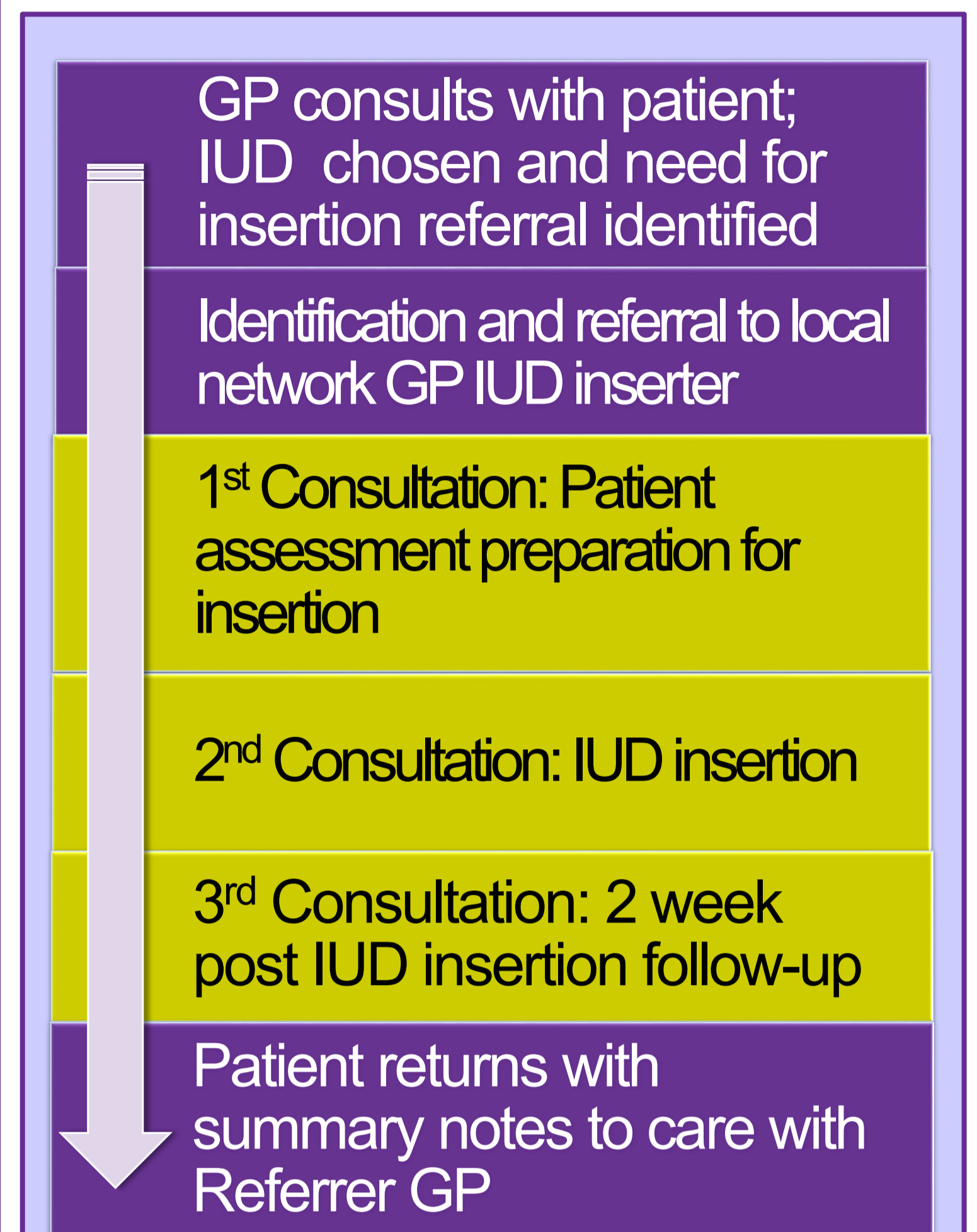


Figure 2: Refined GP-to-GP Referral Pathway

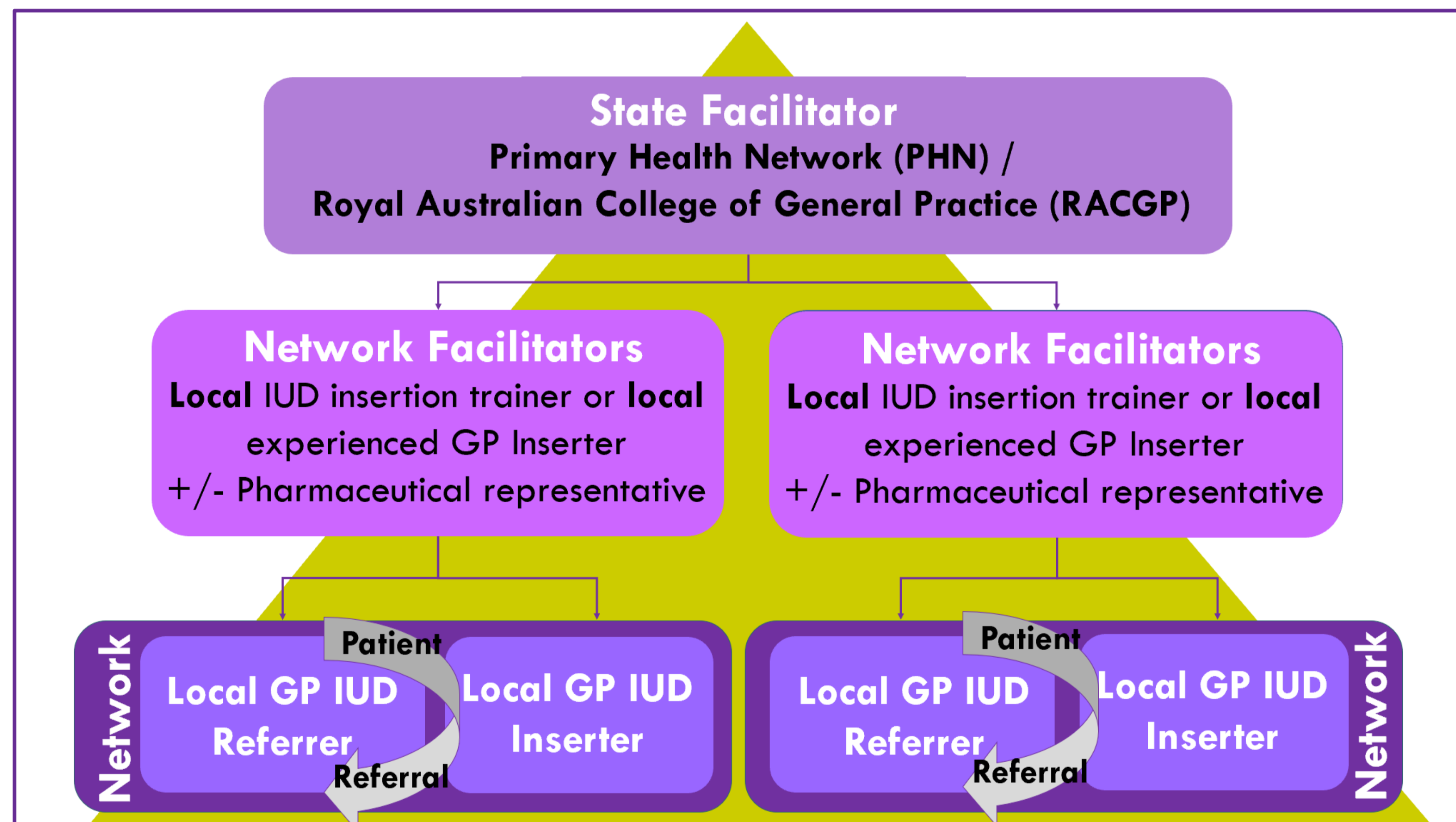


Figure 3: Proposed GPIIN Structure following stakeholder interviews

## 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.

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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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