

COMMUNITY HEALTH MEETING

BALLARAT 2010



Victorian Healthcare Association

VHA Presentation 5 August 2010

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The Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) is the major peak body representing the interests of the public healthcare sector in Victoria. The VHA promotes the improvements of health outcomes for all Victorians from the perspectives of its members that include public hospitals, rural and regional health services, community health services and aged care facilities.



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- Medicare Locals
 - Establish boundaries and final numbers consistent with LHN boundaries by 31 December 2010 bilaterally agreed between State Health Ministers and the Commonwealth Health Minister
 - Medicare Locals governance and performance management developed by the Commonwealth Government in consultation with States
 - Medicare Locals will be independent legal entities (not government bodies) with strong links to local communities, health professionals and service providers, including GPs, allied health professionals and Aboriginal Medical Services.

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- Aim
 - Provide an opportunity to discuss the service provider opportunities for community health that flow from Federal Government Reform
 - Overview of reform initiatives, particularly new funding initiatives that will impact primary healthcare
 - How do these provide opportunities for community health services?

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BALLARAT 2010



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- Better GP and primary health care for people in aged care
 - \$99 million over the next four years to increase financial incentives to GPs to provide more services to Australians receiving aged care; and
 - provide flexible funding to target gaps in primary health care for older Australians, in order to provide older Australians with care in their place of residence.

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BALLARAT 2010



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- Better supporting the nursing workforce in general practice
 - \$390 million to expand support for around 4,600 full-time equivalent nurses
 - annual incentive payments of \$25,000 per full time GP for a registered nurse and \$12,500 per full time GP for an enrolled nurse will be made available to all accredited general practices.

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- More GP Super Clinics
 - \$355 million to deliver around 23 new GP Super Clinics
 - 9 new large GP Super Clinics
 - 14 new medium GP Super Clinics
 - Grants of up to \$150,000 will be available to existing general practices, primary health care services, community health centres, and Aboriginal Medical Services to expand or upgrade, for example, allied health services or provide accommodation for an additional GP or practice nurse.

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BALLARAT 2010



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- Grants of up to \$300,000 will be available to existing facilities that, for example, expand or upgrade accommodation for additional doctors, allied health professionals or practice nurses, strengthen team based care services and offer extended hours.
- Grants of up to \$500,000 will be available for existing facilities that, in addition to the previously identified elements, also ensure that facilities are suitable for teaching.

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- Coordinated care for patients with diabetes
 - the government will invest \$449 million to transform the way patients with chronic disease are treated with GP practices being rewarded for meeting performance benchmarks
 - around \$1,200 a year on average for every enrolled patient and payments of around \$10,800 a year for the average general practice, paid in part on the basis of performance in providing better care and keeping patients healthy.
 - The Government expects more than 4,300 general practices will sign on to the program by 2012–13

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BALLARAT 2010



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- Expanding sub-acute mental health services
 - investment of \$1.6 billion to support 1,316 additional sub-acute care beds.
 - Care provided could include specialist clinical services and a range of rehabilitation and support services depending on the needs of the individual

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- A foundation for better mental health care
 - investing \$176 million, including \$123 million of additional funding, in improving mental health services, especially for young people – through more youth-friendly mental health services, more funding for mental health nurses, and funding for packages of care for people with mental illness.

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BALLARAT 2010



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- Support for more mental health nurses
 - \$13 million over two years to increase the number of mental health nurses
 - They can work in a range of community based and health settings
 - The Commonwealth's funding will increase support through the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program, which provides payments to appropriate providers and organisations which engage mental health nurses.

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BALLARAT 2010



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- Flexible care packages to support people with severe mental illness
 - Redirection of funding from the Better Access initiative to care packages to better support up to 25,000 people with severe mental illness.
 - These packages of care will be delivered through the current Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) arrangements which will receive an extra \$58 million over four years.

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BALLARAT 2010



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- Other Government support for mental health care
 - \$29 million in 2009–10 for psychological services under the Access to Allied Psychological Services program;
 - \$127 million from 2006–07 to 2011–12 (including \$22 million in 2009–10) to reduce the incidence of suicide and suicidal behaviour across Australia; and
 - \$55 million over 5 years to 2012–13 towards a national plan to address perinatal depression.

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BALLARAT 2010



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- National leadership and institutional support for preventive health
 - The Commonwealth is currently seeking to pass legislation to establish an Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA).
 - The legislation for this agency remains in the Senate.

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BALLARAT 2010



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- Questions
 - Contracting services with General Practices
 - Contracting out services to other providers
 - Creating new business arms
 - Working in partnership with other agencies
 - Working in partnership with other community health services

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