



# GP SUPER CLINICS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The VHA believes GP Super Clinics have the potential to improve access to primary health care services in the communities they will serve and, to contribute positively towards the health of Victorians. However, this must take place in collaboration with existing frameworks such as community health, primary care partnerships and local government.

The VHA supports the application of operational guidelines by the Commonwealth Government to ensure that GP Super Clinics do not concentrate their services solely on remedying sickness. An important opportunity exists for these clinics to focus on *preventive care* to as a key part of their service model. Systematic implementation of GP Super Clinics must ensure quality, safety, equity, efficiency and sustainability of resources.

The VHA acknowledges that new approaches to health service delivery are necessary to ensure that Australians continue to enjoy access to health service when and where they need them. New approaches to prevention, primary health care and health workforce structure are necessary to address contemporary health issues, which are mainly attributable to lifestyle.

To enable these goals to be met, sustainable business models that are not based on high throughput but rather on improved health outcomes will only be achieved when *flexible* funding models exist. To achieve better outcomes for patients the existing siloed approaches to health care must be dismantled.

## POLICY CONTEXT

The Federal Government has committed \$223.2 million over four years to establish GP Super Clinics and boost primary health care capacity across Australia. In Victoria, this represents a commitment of \$16.5 million or 7.4% of funding.

Each GP Super Clinic will bring together general practitioners, practice nurses, visiting medical specialists, allied health professionals and other health care providers to better deliver integrated primary health care, tailored to the needs and priorities of the local community.

## The Victorian Healthcare Association

The Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) is the major peak body representing the interests of the public healthcare sector in Victoria. Our members are public hospitals, rural and regional health services, community health services and aged care facilities

Clinics will be developed at the following locations:

Location	Funding	Comment
Berwick	Up to \$2.5 million	Community consultation expected by early 2009
Wallan	Up to \$1.0 million	Community consultation expected by early 2009
Ballan	Up to \$1.0 million	The VHA understands that this community has advocated for additional health services for some time and has well developed plans in place
Bendigo	Up to \$5.0 million	Community consultation expected in late 2008
Geelong	Up to \$7.0 million	Designed to be a teaching practice for registrars based on a model in which the GP is responsible for legal obligations such as writing scripts

## Role of the Victorian Government

The VHA believes the role of the State Government in GP Super Clinics is unclear, especially in Victoria which already has a robust community health sector and a unique governance system that incorporates independent boards of management across the health system. An indication of the strength of Victoria's primary health care system is evident in the fact that Victoria receives only 7.4% of funding versus 12% in NSW and 18% in Queensland.

The VHA supports the plan to model the GP Super Clinic system around the needs of individual communities, rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach. This relies on investment in systemic infrastructure to identify population health needs and a funding system that facilitates adaptability.



## The VHA's Position

In the full position statement, the VHA highlight key requirements for GP Super Clinics to be successful. The VHA advises on the following issues:

1. Integration and collaboration
2. Viability
3. Access and need
4. Workforce
5. Innovation
6. Governance
7. Connectivity

The full position statement and references are available on the VHA website: <http://www.vha.org.au>

### The Victorian Healthcare Association

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