

Thursday 29 May 2008

National Primary Health Care Strategy



Victorian Healthcare Association

- The Federal Government has given an election commitment to develop a National Primary Health Care Strategy
- The Department of Health and Aging is about to commencing this process
- It is expected that the Federal Minister for Health and Aging, Nicola Roxon will make an announcement regarding the process for the development of the strategy in coming weeks

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- **Elements of the proposed strategy include:**
 - Examining providing incentives for GPs to practice quality preventative health care, including through longer consultations and evidence-based management of chronic disease
 - An increased focus on multi-disciplinary care from primary care teams
 - A review of the Medicare Schedule in an effort to alleviate the crippling red tape burden on GPs
 - \$2.5 million for the establishment of an Australian Allied Health Rural and Remote Clinical Placement Scholarship Plan
 - \$220 million investment in GP Super Clinics, which will be driven by local health professionals, and build upon the great work they are already doing in local communities
 - Reforming the Rural Medical Infrastructure Fund to ensure funding gets to the communities that need it

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What should this strategy achieve?

- Comprehensive definition of primary health care
- Compact between all stakeholders – funder, administrator, deliver, consumers
- Framework for outcomes
- Funding model that promotes outcomes
- Organisation of system to plan, monitor, purchase, fund services
 - Catchment based?
 - Funds pooling?
- Local service models