

Press Release



Central Coast
Division of
General Practice



August 2010

Let's get primary health care services into perspective and proportion for the aged care onslaught

The Central Coast Division of General practice is calling for the major parties in this election campaign to acknowledge the necessity to build up the local health service that can be provided through Primary Health Care Organisations (PHCOs), in partnership with GPs and local aged care facilities.

Dr Phil Godden says older Australians living in residential aged care facilities are the sickest and frailest subsection of our society, and have the highest rates of disability in the Australian population.

"Too often these Australians have limited access to primary health care and timely access to GP and allied health professional services, which can compromise the quality of care they receive," Dr Phil Godden said.

"However healthy ageing is also critical to managing and minimising the dependence upon residential aged care facilities because the best health outcomes for our ageing population include independent living with access to community based health care services and living support.

"Promoting healthy ageing is about effectively utilising the new regional coordination infrastructure provided by PHCOs to co-ordinate and deliver locally-relevant health promotion and wellbeing programs for older Australians.

"PHCOs should be provided with the flexible funds to coordinate the regional implementation of evidence-based health promotion programs in promoting the health and wellbeing of older Australians to enhance their functionality.

"The rate at which the Australian population is ageing means the major parties cannot put these important programs and health service arrangements in the 'too hard basket'. The commitment at a political level is needed now given the socio-economic evidence facing the over 65 sector.

"In June 2010, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over was estimated at 13.5% compared with 8.3% 30 years ago.

"This trend is expected to continue with the proportion of the population over 65 expected to double by 2050 and the proportion aged over 85 to quadruple.

Authorised by: Mr. Bill Parker

For Release to: Media outlets

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Further details and
information can be gained by
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"Patterns of disease among the aged are also changing. With the increasing prevalence of chronic diseases and dementia, many more Australians are living for a longer period but requiring greater health care and living support, which places an increasing demand on services. These are the socio-economic factors that cannot be denied or ignored," Dr Phil Godden said.

For Media Interviews contact Dr Phil Godden on 0425 215 840

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