

Press Release



Central Coast
Division of
General Practice



August 2010

Funding commitments for preventative health care programs the way forward for primary health care

Dr Phil Godden is calling on the major parties to fund and support key health and wellbeing programs that will position our region to better prevent illness, promote wellness and ultimately improve the health outcomes of our local community.

“Preventive health treatment plans and programs are integral to improving the health outcomes of patients who are at risk of developing preventable diseases like heart disease and diabetes.” Dr Phil Godden said.

“A Primary Health Care Organization (PHCO), evolving from a collaborative effort of the local Division of General Practice is the best placed to deliver a number of health and lifestyle programs that can reduce the burden of disease in our local community,” Dr Phil Godden said.

During this 2010 election campaign, The Central Coast Division of General Practice seeks a commitment from local candidates and the major parties towards:

- the funding of a national roll out of *Eat It, Work It, Move It*: an evidence based program developed by Macarthur Division of General Practice to promote healthy policies and lifestyles for high school students
- the implementation of *Every Family*: a flexible, positive parenting program that ranges from simply increasing the understanding and value of positive parenting techniques to more specifically targeted interventions for complex behavioural problems, by trained GPs and allied health professionals
- expanding the *Kidsmatter Early Childhood and Kids Matter Primary* program through incentives to PHCOs. This will ensure early childhood services (including pre-schools and long day care centres) and primary schools are well linked and supported by responsive primary health care services in their communities. It will also help parents and children in situations where children are experiencing behavioural and/or mental health difficulties.

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For Release to: Media outlets

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Further details and information can be gained by contacting: Bill Parker on (02) 4365 2294

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- Increasing the flexible funds for PHCOs to co-ordinate the regional implementation of evidence-based health promotion programs with proven effectiveness in promoting the health and wellbeing of older Australians that meet the needs of their communities.
- funding for PHCOs to work in partnership with local aged care facilities and primary health care professionals to ensure older Australians living in these facilities have timely access to GP and primary health care services and by introducing locally relevant solutions to overcome current access barriers.
- Implementing *GP Access*: an online health and wellness program based on the *Fitness2live* program
- Implementing *Time for Action*: a PHCO-led hospitalisation avoidance program for people with coronary heart disease and *Heart Check*: a cardiovascular health check that will identify people at risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

“If local candidates in this election can see the value in reducing the demands placed on hospitals for the care and treatment of patients with chronic and preventable diseases, then they will see the value in committing to these programs for our community,” Dr Phil Godden said.

For Media Interviews contact Dr Phil Godden on 0425 215 840

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