

Media release 22/7/08

Visiting The Doctor About To Become Easier

As part of the largest health reform agenda of the past 30 years, allied health professionals have welcomed the fact that the Australian public stands to gain access to a wide-range of health services from one-stop medical shops known as GP Super Clinics.

“The Allied Health Professionals Association believes the proposed Super Clinics will help to build a stronger primary health care system for working families. The Super Clinics will allow health service providers to focus more resources on managing chronic disease, reduce patient waiting times, improve health promotion and illness prevention programs, and allow for better workplace coordination between the roles performed by doctors and allied health professionals,” explains Carol Mioduchowski, President of Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA).

The Federal Government’s GP Super Clinics will be rolled out at 31 locations across Australia over the next four years offering a broad range of medical services – for example, GPs, dentistry, podiatry, optometry and psychology – all conveniently located under one roof.

“APHA notes that there are major social changes affecting the health system and driving the need for changes in the way we deliver professional health care. For example, the increasing burden of diabetes means more people need to access health services, Australians are living longer with complex health conditions, and the ongoing shortage of doctors have increased the overall operating costs of health care system,” Ms Mioduchowski says.

The range of services offered by Super Clinics will be tailored to meet the changing demographic needs and priorities of the communities they serve and improving the health service outcomes delivered to patients.

“By working more closely with doctors, allied health professionals can help to reduce the time people spend waiting for surgical procedures, we can provide a pre-assessment service for people waiting to see medical specialists, streamlining the process, reduce waiting times, improving patient outcomes and reducing overall cost pressures associated with Australia’s ageing population,” Ms Mioduchowski notes.

Comprising:

Audiological Society of Australia, Australasian Podiatry Council, Australian Association for Exercise and Sports Science, Australian Association of Social Workers, Australian Institute of Radiography, Australian Orthotic and Prosthetic Association, Australian Psychological Society, Australian Sonographers Association, Dietitians Association of Australia, OT AUSTRALIA, Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health Inc, Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, Speech Pathology Australia, The Orthoptic Association of Australia and incorporating AHPARR (AHPA Rural & Remote).

Allied Health Professions Australia represents more than 90,000 allied health professionals who work alongside our doctors and nurses each day to deliver optimum health care for all Australians. APHA's membership includes audiologists, dieticians, exercise physiologists, occupational therapists, orthoptists, orthotists and prosthetists, pharmacists, podiatrists, psychologists, radiographers, radiation therapists, social workers, sonographers and speech pathologists.

For media comment, please phone Carol Mioduchowski 0407 044 231. More information is available from the APHA website: www.apha.com.au

Location list of proposed Super Clinics attached

Locations of proposed Super Clinics

NSW:

Blue Mountains
North Central Coast
Queanbeyan
Grafton
Shellharbour
Port Stevens
Riverina
Southern Lake Macquarie

Queensland:

Brisbane Southside
Cairns
Ipswich
Strathpine
Bundaberg
Gladstone
Mt Isa
Redcliffe
Townsville

Victoria:

Berwick
Wallan
Bendigo
Geelong

Western Australia:

Midland
Wanneroo

South Australia:

Playford North
Modbury
Noarlunga

Tasmania:

Burnie
Devenport
Hobart Eastern Shores (2 sites, Clarence and Sorell)