

## **THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP**

### **Minister for Health and Ageing**

#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

4 November 2011

#### **38 ORGANISATIONS NAMED TO DRIVE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE REFORM**

Thirty-eight organisations have been selected to become the next Medicare Locals that will drive access to better primary health care for Australian families, Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon said today.

“Medicare Locals are the glue that will bring together doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals to work with consumers to provide better frontline primary health services for their local communities,” Minister Roxon said.

“There are already 19 Medicare Locals operating around the country, which are working to better plan and coordinate local health services. These 38 new organisations will soon follow in their footsteps.

“In addition to identifying gaps in local health services, Medicare Locals will help patients to navigate the health system to find the right services at the right time and place, better connecting and improving local services.

“In particular, patients with chronic conditions will benefit from chronic disease prevention and management programs and mental health initiatives.

“Importantly, Medicare Locals will maintain and build on the excellent work already done by the local Divisions of General Practice, with GPs and general practice being at the centre of a strong, integrated primary health care system,” Minister Roxon said.

Across Australia, each Medicare Local will tailor its solutions to the needs of their local community. For example, the North Coast NSW Medicare Local will establish a regional low intensity mental health service called “StressLess” to improve access to mental health care. The Bayside Medicare Local in Victoria will expand the successful after hours clinics to other locations within the catchment, while the Fremantle Medicare Local in WA will establish an Aboriginal Health Priority Area Advisory Group and develop an Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre as a focus for Aboriginal Health Programs.

Eighteen Medicare Locals will be established from 1 January 2012, with the remaining 25 (20 of which have been announced today) to commence from 1 July 2012.

Once all the new Medicare Locals are established there will be a network of 62 nationally to ensure that patients receive locally responsive primary health care.

While applications have been received for the establishment of Medicare Locals in the catchments of North Eastern Sydney and Hunter Rural in New South Wales, Great South Coast and South Western Melbourne in Victoria and Kimberley-Pilbara in Western Australia, further work will be undertaken by the Department of Health and Ageing with those applicants to confirm the arrangements for these Medicare Locals. Announcements on the organisations that will form each of those Medicare Locals will be made once this work has been completed.

The boundaries of each Medicare Local can be viewed at [www.yourhealth.gov.au](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au)

**For all media inquiries, please contact the Minister's Office on 0409 945 476**

## **Attachment A**

### **Medicare Locals to commence from January 2012**

#### **Medicare Local Applicant State/Territory**

Illawarra-Shoalhaven	Illawarra Division of General Practice	NSW
Nepean-Blue Mountains	Nepean Division of General Practice	NSW
North Coast NSW Northern Rivers	General Practice Network	NSW
Northern Sydney GP Network Northside (Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Ryde Division of General Practice)		NSW
Western NSW	Dubbo Plains Division of General Practice	NSW
Bayside Southcity GP Services		Victoria
Frankston-Mornington Peninsula	Peninsula GP Network	Victoria
Loddon-Mallee-Murray	Murray Plains Division of General Practice	Victoria
Lower Murray	Mallee Health Care Network	Victoria
Macedon Ranges and North Western Melbourne	PivotWest	Victoria
South Eastern Melbourne Dandenong Casey GP Association		Victoria
Central and North West Queensland	North and West Queensland Primary Health Care	Queensland
Darling Downs – South West Queensland	GP Connections (Toowoomba and District Division of General Practice)	Queensland
Northern Adelaide	Adelaide Northern Division of General Practice	South Australia
Southern Adelaide – Fleurieu	GP Network South	South Australia
Fremantle	Fremantle General Practice Network	Western Australia
Goldfields-Midwest	Greater WA Health Partnership	Western Australia
Rockingham-Kwinana-Peel	Rockingham Kwinana Division of General Practice	Western Australia

## **Attachment B**

### **Medicare Locals to commence from July 2012**

#### **Medicare Local Applicant State/Territory**

Central Coast NSW Central Coast Division of General Practice NSW  
Eastern Sydney South Eastern Sydney Division of General Practice NSW  
Far West NSW NSW Outback Division of General Practice NSW  
Inner West Sydney Central Sydney GP Network NSW  
South Eastern Sydney Sutherland Division of General Practice NSW  
Southern NSW Southern GP Network NSW  
South Western Sydney Sydney South West GP Link and Southern Highlands  
Division of General Practice NSW  
Eastern Melbourne Eastern Ranges GP Association Victoria  
Gippsland East Gippsland Primary Health Alliance, Central West Gippsland  
Division of General Practice, and General Practice Alliance South Gippsland  
Victoria  
Goulburn Valley Goulburn Valley Division of General Practice Victoria  
Grampians West Vic Division of General Practice Victoria  
Hume Albury-Wodonga Regional GP Network Victoria  
Central Queensland CQ Medicare Local Queensland  
Far North Queensland Far North Queensland Rural Division of General Practice  
Queensland  
Sunshine Coast Sunshine Coast Division of General Practice Queensland  
Wide Bay GP Links Wide Bay Queensland  
Country South SA Murray Mallee General Practice Network South Australia  
Bentley-Armadale Canning Division of General Practice Western  
Australia  
Perth Central and East Metro Perth Primary Care Network Western  
Australia  
Northern Territory General Practice Network NT, Aboriginal Medical Services  
Alliance NT and NT Government Department of Health Northern Territory

## **Attachment C**

### **Medicare Locals where applicants and Department of Health and Ageing are confirming arrangements**

#### **Medicare Local State/Territory**

Hunter Rural NSW  
North Eastern Sydney NSW  
Great South Coast Victoria  
South Western Melbourne Victoria  
Kimberley-Pilbara Western Australia