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MEDIA RELEASE

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More GP Super Clinics and Extra GP Infrastructure

The 2010-11 Budget will deliver a massive \$1.2 billion boost to GP and primary health care including \$355.2 million into building and upgrading GP Super Clinics.

This will honour the Rudd Government's commitment to deliver real improvements in frontline health services for patients across Australia.

The Rudd Government will:

- upgrade around 425 primary care facilities into GP Super Clinics; and
- construct around 23 new dedicated GP Super Clinics.

This strengthens the Rudd Government's \$275.2 million GP Super Clinics program, which is delivering 36 GP Super Clinics.

GP Super Clinics take pressure off public hospitals, provide better integrated and more accessible care, help attract health professionals to areas of need and give health professionals of the future more training options.

Of the new GP Super Clinics, around nine large clinics will be built where doctors, nurses and allied health professionals will be supplemented by more specialised services such as renal dialysis, minor surgical procedures, rehabilitation services and radiology.

The remaining new GP Super Clinics will be built along the lines of the 36 clinics already under construction.

By providing patients with more convenient 'one-stop shops', the Government will help and encourage patients to get the primary care they need to stay fit and well, particularly if they suffer from chronic illnesses.

Three types of funding will be available to help existing general practices expand their facilities, with grants of up to \$500,000. These larger grants will be available to those practices that also establish teaching facilities.

Additional services will be made available as a result of the infrastructure investment, with space made available in GP clinics for allied health services, group education (such as diabetes management), counselling and community health promotion.

This injection in GP Super Clinics builds on the additional primary care being committed to by the Rudd Government, including funding for:

- record numbers of GPs;
- more support and training for around 4600 (full time equivalent) practice nurses; and
- a new innovative approach to improve the treatment of diabetes in GP practices.

These infrastructure investments are part of the Government's move to take over full funding and policy responsibility for primary care.

For all media inquiries, please contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220