



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

MEDIA RELEASE

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GETTING MEN'S NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY IN SHAPE

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, will tonight open the Australian Government's Men's Health Community Forum in Newcastle.

The Forum - one of a series held around the country – will help develop the first-ever National Men's Health Policy.

"The Rudd Labor Government wants to hear from Novocastrians about men's experiences with the health system," Ms Grierson said.

"There is often reluctance among men to talk about health issues, and as a result many easily treated illnesses are often left undiagnosed, and worse. This forum will look at ways to address this reluctance and, ultimately, develop policy to save lives."

The National Men's Health Policy will have a "back to basics" focus that will incorporate innovative ideas from the consultations. It aims to identify areas for urgent attention, such as preventable cancers, mental health, suicide prevention, sexual and reproductive health, violence, accident prevention and alcohol and illicit drug abuse.

The policy will address the issues men face when accessing health care and raise awareness of health problems that specifically affect them.

"I urge all those interested to attend," Ms Grierson said.

The Community Forum will take place from 6:00pm to 8:00pm this evening at Newcastle City Hall, King Street Newcastle.

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