



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
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### **Extra Support for Chronic Disease Sufferers**

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today announced that Hunter New England Health Service (HNEHS) has received a grant of \$194,700 to provide extra support for local patients with chronic diseases.

The grant, one of a range of projects announced nation-wide, will go towards developing a flexible training resource to support skill development of the HNEHS staff in basic chronic disease self-management support, primarily through motivational interviewing and cognitive behaviour therapy training.

"It is estimated that chronic disease is responsible for around 80% of the total burden of disease in Australia," Ms Grierson said.

"By providing more support and training to health care workers who deal with chronic disease patients, we can help alleviate some of the stress that is placed not only on the health care community but also on the individual patients."

The announcement of this project is an important part of the Rudd Government's commitment to fund organisations that will deliver specific chronic disease self-management and lifestyle risk modification strategies in communities and regions throughout Australia.

This has included funding for 82 projects nation-wide, worth \$13.1 million.

"The whole community will reap the benefits from expanded assistance and services in this area," Ms Grierson said.

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