



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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Health Services in Newcastle the Big Winner in 2010/2011 Federal Budget

Personally-controlled electronic health records; a \$1.2 billion boost to GP and primary health care; record numbers of GPs; and more nurse practitioners for general practices were just some of the health service improvements contained in this year's Federal Budget, says Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP.

"The Treasurer had said that this Budget would focus on improving health services in the community, by increasing patient access and strengthening existing training and infrastructure programs," said Ms Grierson.

"And on that promise, it has delivered."

The Rudd Government will provide \$466.7 million over two years to establish the key components of the personally-controlled electronic health record system, commencing in 2012-13.

"Patients will be able to securely access, and permit their healthcare providers to access, their health records," said Ms Grierson.

"Not only will e-records incorporate a greater range of information into health records, they will also put ownership of the record back where it belongs – with the patient."

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.

"This would see smaller general practices, so favoured by the Newcastle community, able to access funding to further improve their facilities and services," said Ms Grierson.

These initiatives build on the additional primary care funding committed to by the Rudd Government, including funding for a 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.

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