



SHARON GRIERSON MP

Federal Member for Newcastle

THE HON GREG COMBET AM MP

Federal Member for Charlton

MEDIA RELEASE

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SENIORS TO BENEFIT FROM \$1.7 MILLION FOR NURSE PRACTITIONER PROJECTS

Elderly patients in the Hunter Region will be able to see Nurse Practitioners under the *Nurse Practitioner – Aged Care Models of Practice Program*, announced today.

Sharon Grierson MP, Member for Newcastle, and Greg Combet AM MP, Member for Charlton, announced that funding of \$1,787,825 was being provided for local projects that will see Nurse Practitioners deliver quality health care to older Australians in the Region.

Receiving \$601,231, the University of Newcastle is collaborating with GP Access to develop and implement a Nurse Practitioner led model to identify and care for people with dementia.

Calvary Retirement Communities Hunter-Manning will receive \$590,380 through the program, and aims to use the model to bridge the gap between GP and specialist services by providing advanced clinical care to people with end of life needs in residential aged care facilities.

Hunter New England Local Health District's model benefits from \$596,214 in funding to address the gap in service delivery to older people and their families facing the last months of life with a chronic disease.

"Our population is ageing and with that comes an increase in the number of people requiring more complex support and care. Highly trained and qualified staff are essential to delivering appropriate clinical care and to improve the quality of life for older Australians," Ms Grierson said.

"Nurse Practitioners, some of whom are already operating locally, play a vital role in delivering quality health care to older Australians and this boost in funding will increase their role in our community."

Mr Combet said the program was a great benefit to the Region's ageing population.

"Nurse Practitioners can assess and manage clients, directly refer clients to other healthcare professionals, prescribe medication and order diagnostic investigations," Mr Combet said.

"The nurse practitioner's role will be connected to our local community, which will help us to support the health and wellbeing needs of older Australians."