



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release
15 February 2007

PHI REFORMS WELCOME, BUT WHAT ABOUT MEDICARE?

Speaking on private health insurance legislation in Parliament yesterday, Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson said more needs to be done for Medicare and public health services.

The legislation will expand the range of medical services which can be covered by private health insurance arrangements.

While welcoming the benefits the legislation would bring to the 44.2% of people in Newcastle who had private health coverage, Ms Grierson questioned why there was nothing for those who relied on Medicare and the public health system.

"What will happen to those who are not insured and therefore not covered by these changes?" Ms Grierson asked.

"The Hunter's alarming death rate is worsening relative to the rest of the state and has risen to second place behind the most remote and rural areas of NSW."

"There is no legislation to address chronic medical workforce shortages."

"There is no legislation to address the inequities in health funding between metropolitan and regional areas."

"If the Government were genuine about ensuring the best possible health care, regardless of wealth and location, we would be debating very different legislation."

Canberra
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: 02 6277 4221
Fax: 02 6277 8461



Newcastle
427 Hunter Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Ph: 02 4926 1555
Fax: 02 4926 1895
www.sharongrierson.com