



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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LABOR TO BOOST HEALTH SERVICES IN NEWCASTLE

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson says Labor's regional health package is great news for access and affordability for health services in Newcastle.

"Labor has today committed to a number of initiatives that I and the community have been lobbying for over the past three years," Ms Grierson said.

For Newcastle, the package includes:

- Secure, long-term funding for the GP Access After Hours service - two of these clinics are in the Newcastle electorate.
- A Medicare licence for the Mater Hospital PET cancer scanner.
- \$200,000 to complete the Hunter Dementia and Memory Resource Centre in Hamilton.

"We will negotiate a long-term funding arrangement for GPAAH so that the service - which includes clinics at John Hunter Hospital and the Newcastle Community Health Centre - doesn't have to ask for renewed funding each year."

"The PET scanner Medicare licence will ensure cancer patients don't have to travel to Sydney for vital diagnostic scans, while funding for the Dementia Resource Centre will help the estimated 8,000 people living with dementia in Newcastle."

"Novocastrians will also benefit from other measures in Labor's \$2.5 billion National Health and Hospitals Reform Plan." These include:

- Two GP Super Clinics in our region to improve access to primary healthcare.
- Reduced elective surgery waiting times at public hospitals.
- More nurses in our hospitals.
- An \$800 million plan to improve dental health.

"This is a great package and shows Labor's commitment to health care in our region."

"Only by electing strong local Labor representatives and a Rudd Labor Government can our region ensure these positive plans are delivered."

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