



The Hon David Bradbury MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LINDSAY

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Media Release

NEPEAN-BLUE MOUNTAINS MEDICARE LOCAL TO COORDINATE BETTER CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Local residents will receive better coordinated and integrated primary health care services through the establishment of the Nepean-Blue Mountains Medicare Local from next year.

Federal Member for Lindsay, David Bradbury today announced that the Nepean Division of General Practice, Blue Mountains GP Network and Hawkesbury and Lithgow GPs will form the Nepean-Blue Mountains Medicare Local.

The three Divisions have strong collaborative relationships across the primary health care sector, including with the Local Health District and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations in the region.

Nepean-Blue Mountains Medicare Local is part of a network of 62 Medicare Locals which are being established to enable the provision of better coordinated and tailored primary health care to their local communities.

“The Federal Labor Government are establishing Medicare Locals right across Australia to work with their local communities to provide better coordinated frontline health services and to improve the health of Australians and keep them out of hospital” said Mr Bradbury.

“Nepean-Blue Mountains Medicare Local is evolving from the local Divisions of General Practice and will be the glue that will bring together doctors, nurses, and other health and aged care professionals to work with consumers to identify gaps in local health services and plan for the future.

“In addition to identifying gaps in local health services, Medicare Locals will help patients to navigate the health system to find the right services at the right time and place, better connecting and improving local services.

Nepean-Blue Mountains Medicare Local will undertake a range of activities that will initially include the following:

- Employment of a health planner to ensure that population health planning is integral to the work of the Medicare Local.
- Expansion of the Consumer Reference Groups which are currently operating in Penrith and the Blue Mountains to cover the entire Medicare Local region through the establishment of a consumer

reference group as a subcommittee of the Medicare Local Board.

- Work with general practices, the National GP telephone service and the After Hours Clinics to coordinate support and assist GPs to implement solutions supporting local after hours arrangements.
- Work with the Roads and Transport Authority, community transport and the Local Council to develop effective transport strategies for rural and isolated people to access respiratory services.
- Expansion of the Diabetes in General Practice Networking Group to include the Lithgow Local Government Area supporting the Local Health District in joint strategic planning for the better management of diabetes.

“Importantly, Nepean-Blue Mountains Medicare Local will maintain and build on the excellent work already done by the local Divisions of General Practice, with GPs and general practice being at the centre of a strong, integrated primary health care system.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our area and I look forward to working closely with the Medicare Local and other local primary health care providers to ensure a vibrant, responsive primary health care system” Mr Bradbury said.