



**Thursday 14 April, 2011**

## **Primary health care reforms working for youth mental health services**

Young Australians needing mental health care can now look forward to a greater choice of contemporary services following the establishment of ten new *headspace* services, some of which will operate within Divisions of General Practice.

Australian General Practice Network [AGPN] Chair, Dr Emil Djakic said today these new sites announced by the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, will enhance the mental health services available to young people between the ages of 12 and 25 who are at risk.

"The Federal Government's commitment of \$133.3 million over four years is a good head start to tackling one of the nation's biggest health service problems," Dr Djakic said.

"The strength of the *headspace* model is its multidisciplinary and integrated services that are designed for young people and their families.

"These new *headspace* sites will tailor mental health care needs according to the intensity of the care required.

"This model of care enables services to be stepped up or stepped down and it thereby delivers the flexibility needed for a patient and a professional health care team.

"As the Divisions of General Practice re-configure to become the Medicare Locals of the future - the new system for primary health care - mental health programs like *headspace* will increasingly deliver at the community level.

"Increasingly health services delivered through Medicare Locals will shift the balance of care away from the hospital sector and more towards the primary health care sector.

"These ten new *headspace* sites are an example of the new system of care that will address access and equity issues, especially for young people who often struggle to access appropriate services.

"As a founding member of *headspace*, AGPN congratulates the following Divisions of General Practice which will be delivering these *headspace* sites," Dr Djakic said.

- General Practice Network South
- Brisbane South Division Ltd
- Far North Queensland Rural Division of General Practice
- Illawarra Division of General Practice
- Osborne GP Network Limited

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