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## **A healthy investment in ageing will help a sick system** **AGPN's Federal Budget Submission 2012-2013 *Healthy ageing: time for action***

The Australian General Practice Network's (AGPN) Federal Budget submission 2012-2013 is this year focused on aged care to trigger a realistic investment into the aged care sector for the nation.

AGPN Chair, Dr Emil Djakic said meaningful reform in the aged care sector must include a focus on healthy ageing and better coordinated care for older Australians and better coordination for their carers, through service provision within Medicare Locals.

"It's time to move on from the fragmented, disconnected system that confronts ageing Australians and instead move towards a coordinated, locally driven and sustainable system that is more about preventing disease, immobility and complications and less about visits to the local hospital," Dr Djakic said.

AGPN's submission is seeking an investment of over \$140 million over a three-four year period with the new funding targeting five key areas:

- \$55 million over three years to deliver better access to quality primary health care for residents in aged care facilities by providing local solutions that address identified local care gaps
- \$56.8 million over three years to establish a new evidence-based care coordination program to support older Australians with complex conditions and chronic care needs to access the care they need to maximise their health and wellbeing. This initiative will support an estimated 40,000 eligible older Australians through provision of a dedicated care coordination service
- \$22.8 million over four years to support the national roll-out, through the Medicare Local network, of high quality, evidence-based programs such as the Heart Foundation's *Heartmoves* initiative, to support greater physical activity amongst older Australians living in the community and in residential facilities to help prevent the onset of disease and help maintain functionality and wellbeing.
- \$3.9 million over three years to get Australia's end of life care to a best practice standard to give all Australians access to quality generalist palliative care in the primary care setting
- \$2.7 million over three years to enhance the timely diagnosis and effective management of dementia through primary care by delivering education and training for primary health care professionals and enhancing their access to the network of local services to maximise available resources to help keep older Australians living better with dementia.

**For a copy of AGPN's Federal Budget 2012-2013 submission *Healthy ageing: time for action*, contact:**

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