

United General Practice Australia

GPs call for health stimulus

Australia's General Practitioners have urged Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to invest in Australia's primary health care system as a key component of the next economic stimulus package.

In a letter to Mr Rudd, United General Practice Australia (UGPA) said there was no better infrastructure investment than health, and supporting general practice would ensure the best possible health care was delivered where it was most needed.

In the letter, the peak GP group argues that increased investment in general practice infrastructure "will not only support increased economic activity and local job creation in communities throughout the country as part of a recovery Budget following the G20 summit, but will also help build the health workforce and system Australia needs to meet the challenges of the future."

"At a time when the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission's interim report is calling for primary care led health reform, now is the time to make a down-payment on improving the capacity of front line health care for all Australians.

"Increased investment in general practice infrastructure is crucial if we are to deliver on two of the Government's key goals for health:

- improved patient access to comprehensive, integrated multidisciplinary care, and
- assistance in teaching the next generation of primary care professionals to ensure a robust future health workforce."

The letter commends Mr Rudd for increasing investment in educational infrastructure and calls for similar funding commitments for health.

"Health is a key driver of labour and capital investment and consequent economic growth, as well as being a key determinant in the economic productivity of the workforce," the letter said.

The proposals outlined in the letter support increased economic activity and employment, and will help build the health system Australia needs to meet the challenges of the future.

General practitioners are confident that investment in the two key areas will stimulate local and regional economies while delivering a sound investment in a healthy future for all Australians.

UGPA is the peak body representing all national GP groups including the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Australian General Practice Network, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and General Practice Registrars Australia.

Media contact details are below:



For further information:

RACGP	Dr Chris Mitchell 0427 878 383, Mr Jason Berek-Lewis 0404 055 265
AMA	Dr Rosanna Capolingua 0409 989 991
AGPN	Dr Emil Djakic, Frith Rayner 0402 267 190
RDAA	Dr Nola Maxfield 0418 335 344, Patrick Daley 0408 004 890
GPRA	Mr Amit Vohra 0431 909 502
ACRRM	Dr Pat Giddings 0408 573955