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## **Reappointment of Nicola Roxon to health is the consistency needed for an unbalanced system**

The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) says the opportunity now exists to implement major health reforms that will substantially enhance services in and to the community following the re-appointment of Nicola Roxon as the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing.

AGPN Chair, Dr Emil Djakic, said Ms Roxon's reappointment provides the consistency that is needed for major reforms to fix a health system which is currently out of whack.

"Over the past three years we have seen a tremendous amount of planning and decision making: what is needed over the next three years is a focus on implementation, to put in place the substantial changes which are needed to Australia's health system.

"Minister Roxon has been tremendously focused on achieving major health reforms for Australia and AGPN is keen to continue to contribute towards this agenda and to keep the momentum going.

"A fundamental objective of the Australian health system should be that, where it is reasonably possible to provide a health service in the community rather than in hospital, that service should be provided in the community.

"The current system lacks balance: it is too focused on hospital care and the Minister is to be congratulated for her determination to reorient the health system to achieve a greater focus on prevention, on integration of general practice and other primary health care services.

"It's also very pleasing to have a specific Minister for Mental Health and Ageing and we congratulate Mark Butler on his appointment to what must be a priority area for this government.

"The Network and general practice already provide a substantial amount of care and support for people with mental health issues and we look forward to working with Mark Butler and highlighting how the Network will be integral to the implementation of the mental health and ageing policies of this government," Dr Djakic said.

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