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## **GP infrastructure grants: a positive investment for primary health care**

The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) says the expansion of 450 general practices and the services they will offer to local communities through today's release of the Federal Government's \$64.5 million primary infrastructure grants is a significant shift for primary health care in Australia.

AGPN Chair, Dr Emil Djakic said these grants will in due course, provide the concrete evidence of the benefits of a much broader and expansive primary health care system that is needed in this country.

"These infrastructure grants will serve as a significant component towards re-orientating the health system's funding towards primary health care as opposed to hospital beds," Dr Djakic said.

"The grants have the potential to improve the capacity of the general practice sector to tackle patient access to services and to provide greater education and training opportunities to build a stronger health workforce for the future

"By improving the infrastructure of hundreds of general practices across Australia, there is a greater scope for chronically ill patients with heart conditions and diabetes for instance, who more often than not end up in hospitals, to instead receive ongoing and consistent treatment locally with their GP.

"Allied health professionals and practice nurses will also benefit from the greater opportunities that will be made available to them through an increased capacity with the general practice sector," Dr Djakic said.

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