Media Release

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Funding commitments for preventative health care programs is the way forward

Dr John Kastrissios, General Practice Queensland Board Director is calling on the major parties to fund and support key health and wellbeing programs that will position our region to better prevent illness, promote wellness and ultimately improve the health outcomes of our local community.

“Preventive health treatment plans and programs are integral to improving the health outcomes of patients who are at risk of developing preventable diseases like heart disease and diabetes.” Dr John Kastrissios said.

“Primary Health Care Organisations (PHCOs), which will evolve from a collaborative effort of local divisions of general practice in Queensland, are best placed to deliver a number of health and lifestyle programs that can reduce the burden of disease in our local community,” Dr John Kastrissios said.

During this 2010 election campaign, GPQ seeks a commitment from local candidates and the major parties towards:

- continuing funding of a Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes program where in Queensland the uptake of the program is currently the highest nationally.
- expanding the development of the activate: mind & body project (formally known as Improving the Physical Health of People with a Severe Mental Illness project). This will ensure the development of improving current systems in place to provide care for those with a severe mental illness (SMI)
- funding to work in partnership with local aged care facilities and primary health care professionals to ensure older Australians living in these facilities have timely access to GP and primary health care services and by introducing locally relevant solutions to overcome current access barriers.

“If local candidates in this election can see the value in reducing the demands placed on hospitals for the care and treatment of patients with
chronic and preventable diseases, then they will see the value in committing to these programs for our community,” Dr John Kastrissios said.

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**General Practice Queensland** provides strategic leadership, advocacy and representation for its member divisions and general practice.

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