Media Release

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11 Medicare Locals for Queensland - Good news for Queenslanders

Today, the Commonwealth Government released the national Medicare Local boundaries. The announcement of 11 Medicare Locals in Queensland is another significant health reform step towards delivering a well integrated and responsive local GP and primary health care services for Queenslanders.

Dr John Kastrissios, GPQ Board Director said “The confirmation of both the Medicare Locals boundaries today and Local Health and Hospital Network yesterday provides a well-defined platform to meet the differing needs and priorities of patients and communities across the State.”

The largely aligned geographic boundaries of Medicare Locals and Local Health and Hospital Networks underpin the desire for improving population health outcomes in 2011 and beyond.

“These boundaries assist in the coordination of a patient’s care across different levels of the health system, it supports population planning and enables the more effective and efficient management of services” said Dr Kastrissios.

The first group of Medicare Locals and their associated branch offices are to be established by 1 July 2011, with the remainder starting in mid 2012.

Further discussion and consultations are to be undertaken in Queensland to determine the formation and implementation of Medicare Locals and the way in which they will be responsive to consumers and their communities.

ENDS

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General Practice Queensland (GPQ) is a peak representative body for 17 divisions of general practice. For more information visit www.gpqld.com.au