Media Release

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GPQ supports LNP’s commitment to improve the patient’s journey

Brisbane, QLD, Monday 12 March 2012

General Practice Queensland (GPQ) welcomes the LNP’s election strategy to improve the coordination and communication between GPs and hospitals for Queenslanders.

Dr John Kastrissios, GPQ Board Director said “GPQ has been advocating for the important role of GP Liaison Officers in improving a patient’s journey between general practice and hospitals.

At GPQ’s recent 2012 Health Leaders Forum event, GPQ presented Shadow Health Minister Mark McArdle a state-wide solutions paper for improving patients flow through specialists’ outpatient services through better integration with the primary health care sector.

“GPQ has already been involved in improving the patient journey by working within hospitals and community settings” said Dr Kastrissios.

He said, “We are pleased that the paper, with many innovative ways of providing services to patients, has been embraced by the LNP today”.

Dr John Kastrissios said, “Solutions outlined in the paper build on strong evidence that GP Liaison Officers improve the GP referral and discharge processes and enhance the skills and capacity of all health services personnel”.

He said, “A $4 million investment to engage GP Liaison Officers at 20 public hospitals gives us confidence that gaps in the continuity of care and the movement of patients between care settings will result in greater satisfaction for patients.”

“The LNP commitment to spend $12 million to provide up to 40,000 extra public specialist outpatients services is also welcomed” said Dr Kastrissios.
Dr John Kastrissios said, “GPQ believes these enhancements to specialist outpatients are another very practical solution in enhancing equitable service delivery throughout the State.”

“Better coordination across the health sector makes best use of the health care dollar in times of fiscal constraint” said Dr John Kastrissios GPQ Board Director.

Our paper calls for a state-wide coordinated approach. GPQ is excited by the future health care of the state and looks forward to continuing to work with Queensland Health.

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**General Practice Queensland** provides strategic leadership, advocacy and representation for General Practice Network and Medicare Local members.

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