



# Media Release

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## BETTER ACCESS TO GP CARE WELCOMED

The Australian Medical Association today welcomed the Canberra Liberals plans to encourage GP bulk billing, improve access to GP services and better integrate healthcare for all Canberrans.

“We welcome this package and its focus on support for general practice and bulk billing, improved access to GP services and better integration of care,” said AMA ACT President, Dr Antonio Di Dio.

“In these difficult times, we know that improving patients access to GP services and ensuring that those services are better co-ordinated is a key part of better health outcomes.” Dr Di Dio added.

“In particular, we are pleased with the \$5m commitment to a trial of integrated care for patients with chronic cardiovascular, respiratory, musculoskeletal and mental health conditions,” Dr Di Dio said.

“For some time, we’ve known that if we can better integrate care across our health system – from public hospitals, to general practices and on to allied and other healthcare services, better outcomes can be achieved for our patients.” Dr Di Dio added.

“In other words, patient focussed, GP-led integrated care.” Dr Di Dio said.

“While we know it’s a challenge to bring the various parts of the healthcare system closer, and get them working together, that’s where the big gains lie. ACT Health know this, as do Canberra Health Services, as well as our local primary care network. GPs know it and, most importantly, so do our patients.” Dr Di Dio said.

“Given the clear benefits that integrated care brings in terms of both better care and better value, I challenge ACT Labor to step up and match the Canberra Liberals commitment to a \$5m trial of integrated care and help us build an ACT healthcare system fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” Dr Di Dio concluded.

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