Rural Women’s GP Service – expand services for women

Why is this important?

- Many women are reluctant to consult male doctors for certain health issues. This can be a particular concern in places where female GP numbers are limited.

- The Rural Women’s GP Service (RWGPS), managed by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, enables female GPs to run clinics and provide other health services in eligible rural and remote communities. This allows women in those areas to consult a female doctor if they choose.

Who will benefit?

- The expansion of the RWGPS to 32 new sites will enable more women from rural areas to see a female GP if they wish.

- The number of RWGPS sites will be expanded gradually over four years. By 2011, it should result in an additional 6,200 consultations per year, taking it to more than 21,000 consultations a year in around 180 locations.

- The RWGPS operates in all states and the Northern Territory. Its service can be used by all members of the community.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government has committed $14 million over four years, including an additional $4.3 million, to continue and expand the RWGPS.

What have we done in the past?

- Since 1999, the Commonwealth Government has committed a total of $17.2 million to the RWGPS. Currently there are 152 locations providing approximately 15,500 consultations per year.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This initiative is ongoing.