Quality improvement in general practice – simplification of the Practice Incentives Program

The Practice Incentives Program will be streamlined and simplified to help general practice continue to achieve high quality health care and improved patient outcomes. The Government will consult closely with stakeholders throughout the design and implementation of new incentive payment arrangements.

Why is this important?

- Doctors receive practice incentive payments to cover a range of extra health-related services. Rural loading recognises the difficulties of providing care in rural and remote areas. The after hours services incentive supports extra staffing and resources. The teaching payment helps GPs to train the future GP workforce.

- Incentive payments will be made simpler. The redesign will be led by the sector, improve support for GPs providing quality services, and continue to improve health outcomes for patients.

- Streamlining administration arrangements will reduce the regulatory burden on general practice, and achieve savings to the health system.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care has demonstrated the effectiveness of incentive payments, and will inform the redesign over the coming year.

- Redesigning the incentives will focus on quality improvement across the range of GP incentives, and will draw on best practice examples and feedback from across the sector.

Who will benefit?

- General practices will have input in redesigning a fair and best practice incentive payment system, delivering overall savings to the health system.

- Patients will have better access to quality care over the longer term.

How much will this cost?

This ongoing measure will save $21.2 million from 2015–16 to 2019–20.