



**THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP**  
**Minister for Health and Ageing**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**CONSUMERS KEY TO HEALTH REFORM**

The focus of health reform was today on patients as the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, hosted the first consumer-specific consultation in partnership with the Consumers' Health Forum.

The consultation highlighted the central role of consumers in Australia's health care system and in the Government's health reform agenda.

At today's consultation, Minister Roxon outlined the Reform Commission's recommendations before listening to the views of consumer representatives from across Australia on what they saw as the priorities for health reform.

Issues raised included:

- The problems with fragmentation of care and the need to 'connect up' the different elements of the health care system
- The need to give consumers a greater voice in health care decision making
- The importance of health literacy.

Ms Roxon said it was encouraging to see consumers' contributions to the health reform process.

A key principle of the Government's reform agenda was to build a health system with the patient at the centre, where patients benefit from seamless care tailored to their needs.

Today's consumer-specific consultation is the 63<sup>rd</sup> to be held across the country to road-test the commission's proposed reforms.

The Rudd Government is taking concrete steps to improve Australia's health and hospital system after twelve years of neglect by the previous Liberal Government.

All Australians are also able to contribute to the national debate on our health system via the [yourHealth.gov.au](http://yourHealth.gov.au) website – and full copies of the reports can be found there.

**For all media inquiries, please contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220.**