COAG – reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes

Why is this important?

- Many Australians, particularly those over 40, are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes through lifestyle factors relating to nutrition and physical activity. Without effective interventions, by 2030 around 3.3 million Australians are likely to have type 2 diabetes.

- Under this measure a new tool will be developed to identify people at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

- A new Medicare item will be introduced for GPs to develop a “Diabetes Risk Plan” for those aged 40 to 49 years who are found to be at high risk.

- This group may be referred by their GP to a subsidised lifestyle modification program.

- Divisions of General Practice will be funded to help purchase, or, in certain circumstances, provide the lifestyle modification programs.

- As with other programs run through Divisions, in-house provision may be the only viable option in some regional and remote communities.

Who will benefit?

- It is estimated that 136,000 Australians aged 40 to 49 will participate in the program over the four years.

- National standards and accreditation of lifestyle modification programs will ensure programs offered to the public are safe and effective.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Commonwealth Government will provide $103.4 million over four years towards a national package to prevent type 2 diabetes. States and territories will provide a further $101 million for other activities to address type 2 diabetes.

What have we done in the past?

- The Commonwealth Government established diabetes as a National Health Priority in 1996. Since then the Government:
  - has committed $2.1 million per annum (indexed annually) since 1999 to the National Diabetes Strategy (2000-04);
- has committed $43.4 million over four years in the 2001-02 Budget for the National Integrated Diabetes Program (NIDP), with a further $44.2 million committed over four years in 2005-06 to improve the care of people with diabetes through general practice;
- will provide approximately $670 million over five years from 2006-07 for Diabetes Australia to continue the National Diabetes Services Scheme (an increase from the $442 million provided over the previous five years) so people with diabetes can access essential products such as syringes, insulin infusion pump consumables and diagnostic products at subsidised rates.

**When will the initiative conclude?**

- The initiative will conclude in June 2011.