



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AGEING

The Hon Dick Adams MP  
Member for Lyons  
PO Box 50  
PERTH TAS 7300

Dear Mr Adams *Dick,*

Thank you for your letter of 14 July 2008 regarding the GP Super Clinic at Sorell.

I was pleased to learn that you found the Sorell consultation meeting a positive experience. I understand that more than 125 people attended, indicating a strong interest in the GP Super Clinics initiative in your electorate.

There is no one size fits all approach to GP Super Clinics but there are, however, a number of core characteristics that I expect each funded clinic to demonstrate. These aspects of the program focus on encouraging doctors and their allied health colleagues to provide multidisciplinary, team-based care, particularly for patients with chronic diseases. This approach is part of the Commonwealth Government's reform strategy for dealing with the burden of chronic disease at a time when the nature of the primary care workforce is also changing.

The GP Super Clinic program arrangements were decided in collaboration with the State and Territory Governments in consultation with a large number of peak organisations representing doctors, health practitioners, pharmacies and consumer groups.

I appreciate your concern to ensure that the GP Super Clinic in Sorell is viable and meets local health needs and priorities. It is my understanding that interest in submitting a proposal to establish the Sorell GP Super Clinic was expressed by several participants who attended the consultation meeting.

In announcing the funding for Hobart's eastern shores, I made the commitment that the GP Super Clinic at Clarence would be based on upgrading the existing community health centre. The commitment also reflected that both the Commonwealth and the Tasmanian Governments recognise the linkages between Clarence and Sorell as communities and through many existing health arrangements. Notwithstanding these linkages, I would confirm that each site will be considered individually under the GP Super Clinic program.

Integration of health services across the community is an aspect that the Commonwealth Government is seeking to encourage through the GP Super Clinic program. The development of the Clarence site has the potential to support integration of many health providers on Hobart's eastern shores as well as the East Arm and the Peninsula.

I am confident that the investment of \$2.5 million into Sorell for a GP Super Clinic will make a long-term difference to health service provision in your electorate and look forward to working with you to make the Sorell GP Super Clinic a reality.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

NICOLA ROXON

3 SEP 2008