



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
MINISTER FOR SPORT**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

15 October 2014

**Primary Health Networks to Drive Better Primary Health Care**

A total of 30 Primary Health Networks will be established to lead improvements to the quality and delivery of primary health care throughout Australia.

Health Minister Peter Dutton said the Primary Health Networks (PHNs) are being established to ensure the better, more coordinated delivery of health care services.

“From July next year a new system of 30 Primary Health Networks, with general practice at its core, will replace the 61 Medicare Locals established by the former Government,” Mr Dutton said.

“Primary Health Networks will align with Local Hospital Networks to drive efficiencies and better direct health funding to the delivery of frontline health care services.

“Primary Health Networks will deliver better health outcomes for Australians over time by improving the links between local health services and hospital care, and through the better targeting of available funding on effective health programmes.”

Mr Dutton said the Medicare Locals review, conducted by Professor John Horvath, found the capacity and performance of existing Medicare Locals to be highly variable.

The review recommended that a smaller number of organisations would be more efficient, having a greater ability to affect positive local health change and maximise funding directed to frontline services, instead of administration.

“Primary Health Networks will be clinically focused, with general practice at the heart of improving the delivery of primary health care in Australia,” Mr Dutton said.

The Australian Government will release an *‘Invitation to Apply’* process later this year to select PHN operators.

Boundaries for the 30 PHNs are now available on the Department of Health’s website at: [www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/primary\\_Health\\_Networks](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/primary_Health_Networks)

**For more information, please contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220**