



AMA
TASMANIA

MONEY WASTED ON SUPER CLINICS

Media release Sunday 13th June 2010.

The Australian Medical Association Tasmania (AMA) welcomes the recognition of the importance of the role of the General Practitioner by the Rudd Government in the recent Budget. Eighty five per cent of Australians see their GP at least once a year and GPs treat 90% of the conditions presented to them.

However, the same Government has allocated \$233m for the construction of an additional 23 Super Clinics, most of which will be built in areas well serviced by GPs. Dr. Michael Aizen, President of AMA Tasmania, said that they should complement existing GP services, not compete with them.

AMA Tasmania calls for the reallocation of this money to add to the \$117m already announced for infrastructure improvement of existing General Practices to allow for education of medical students, prevocational trainees, GP Registrars, practice nurses and allied health professionals.

Dr. Aizen said that the Government could better support local communities by funding General Practices with the means to broaden the range of services and improve linkages within the primary health care network.

The AMA is also concerned that the location of some Super Clinics has more to do with political expediency than community need.

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End:

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