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COAG congratulated on diabetes decisions

The Council of Australian Government (COAG) consisting of state premiers, territory chief ministers and the Prime Minister who met today in Canberra have been congratulated by the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) for their agreement on a scheme to tackle the diabetes epidemic.

The Prime Minister has indicated the Commonwealth will invest \$100 million to tackle type 2 diabetes and this will be matched by the states/territories.

AGPN Chair Dr Tony Hobbs said he was delighted by today's decision and looks forward to seeing the details of the scheme.

"This funding is an excellent start to combating the growing diabetes epidemic in Australia.

"Over 1 million Australian's have diabetes and the rate is steadily growing at an additional 100,000 people a year," Dr Hobbs said.

AGPN Chair Dr Tony Hobbs said conditions such as type 2 diabetes are far more prevalent in older Australians as a result of the lifestyle choices they made in their younger years.

"We already know that diabetes and other chronic conditions have an enormous social and economic cost. We also know that with effective education and treatment these illness' can be reduced significantly.

"It's good to see that the Australian governments recognise diabetes as a real problem now and into the future" Dr Hobbs said.

AGPN, in their budget submission, detailed a number of solutions that will reduce the number of Australians suffering from chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes.

To combat the diabetes disaster AGPN proposes:

- obesity be recognised as a chronic disease under Medicare to improve access to treatment
- divisional managed pre-diabetic clinics that GPs could patients to
- children's health check ups, including biometrics when they have their 4yr old immunisations
- a practice nurse payment allowing nurses and Aboriginal health workers to conduct specific preventative health checks.

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