



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Dietitians welcome new funding initiative for diabetes care but warn the proportion of funding for allied health will not provide the care that is needed**

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) today welcomed the Government's announcement to invest \$436 million in improving the health of Australians with diabetes.

DAA President Julie Dundon said: 'We applaud the Government for investing in primary health care to help keep Australians out of hospitals, and for recognising the value of a team approach among health professionals in managing conditions like diabetes.'

'We hope this initiative will help GPs and allied health professionals, such as Accredited Practising Dietitians (APD), work more closely and have a better understanding of each other's roles.'

DAA is calling on the Health Minister to make sure only registered or accredited allied health professionals, such as APDs, can access the funding from this initiative – a move which would support evidence-based health care.

'The care of patients with diabetes must be organised and delivered based on best practice guidelines, which clearly identify the most appropriate allied health professionals to manage the care. In turn, this will mean better outcomes for patients,' said Ms Dundon.

DAA would like to see all health professionals involved in care of diabetes patients under this initiative rewarded for better patient outcomes, rather than incentives being directed solely at the GP.

'This initiative is a good start, but \$250 per patient per year for allied health services is likely to allow for only minimal input from these health professionals. We're calling on the Government to recognise the major role allied health professionals play in managing diabetes,' said Ms Dundon.

She said the Association will continue to lobby for funding that recognises the real costs of providing health care.

'This new initiative must not just be a repackaging of the existing Medicare Benefits Scheme for chronic disease management items. We need real innovation in the provision of multidisciplinary care for patients with diabetes,' said Ms Dundon.

She said DAA looked forward to working with the Government on refining the details of this initiative.

**For further information or to speak with Julie Dundon, contact  
Romy Hurwitz, Dietitians Association of Australia, on 0409 661 920.**

*ENDS*

**Note to Editors:** The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is the professional body representing dietitians nationally. Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) is the only national credential recognised by the Australian Government, Medicare, the Department of Veterans Affairs and most private health funds as the quality standard for nutrition and dietetics services in Australia. For more information visit [www.daa.asn.au](http://www.daa.asn.au)