

**Chief Minister**

Treasurer

Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality

Minister for Tourism and Special Events

Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment

Member for Kurrajong

ARRANGEMENTS BRIEF

FUNCTION:	Announcement of the Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund recipients in Tuggeranong
VENUE:	Isabella Plains Medical Centre, 9 Arakoon Crescent, Isabella Plains
HOST:	<p><u>Isabella Plains Medical Centre</u> Name: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]</p> <p><u>ACT Health</u> Name: Leonie McGregor, Deputy Director-General, ACT Health Directorate Mobile: [REDACTED]</p>
DAY:	Friday
DATE:	19 October 2018
TIME:	9.00 am
TIME COMMITMENT:	30 minutes
CATERING:	N/A
DRESS CODE:	Business
YOUR ROLE:	To open the press conference for the announcement by Minister Fitzharris of the grant recipients through a media doorstep style press conference and participate in a short tour at the practice
WHERE TO PARK:	In the Isabella Plains Medical Centre car park
WHO WILL MEET YOU:	[REDACTED] and Ms McGregor will meet you outside the entrance of the Isabella Plains Medical Centre
ADVISOR ATTENDING:	Minister's Office to confirm

ACT Legislative Assembly

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AndrewBarrMLA



actchiefminister



CANBERRA

AUDIENCE:	Representatives from participating general practices, grant recipients, members of the community and local media
VIPS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meegan Fitzharris, Minister for Health and Wellbeing • Michael De’Ath, Director-General, ACT Health Directorate • Leonie McGregor, Deputy Director-General, ACT Health Directorate • [REDACTED] of Isabella Plains Medical Centre • [REDACTED], Isabella Plains Medical Centre • [REDACTED] Interchange General Practice
PAST INVOLVEMENT:	Minister Fitzharris announced the opening of the grants in early February 2018.
SENSITIVITIES:	The Grant Fund applications closed in early April 2018. The delays in announcing the recipients may result in negative commentary from applicants, with unsuccessful applicants likely to be disappointed not to receive funding
ORDER OF CEREMONIES	<p>8.55am: Chief Minister and Minister Fitzharris arrive and are greeted by [REDACTED] and Ms McGregor</p> <p>9.00am: Short tour of practice commences with Chief Minister, Minister Fitzharris and media. Tour facilitated by [REDACTED]</p> <p>9.15am: Media are assembled for doorstep style press conference at the entrance to the practice. Chief Minister to open press conference and then hand over to Minister Fitzharris to speak</p> <p>9.22am: Photo opportunity with grant recipients and opportunity for further media interviews</p> <p>9.30am: Event concludes. Chief Minister and Minister Fitzharris free to depart</p>
MEDIA:	A joint Barr/Fitzharris media alert and media release has been prepared
SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS	<p>Chief Minister – Facebook page</p> <p>Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Facebook page</p> <p>ACT Health – Facebook page</p>



Minister for Health and Wellbeing
 Minister for Higher Education
 Minister for Medical and Health Research
 Minister for Transport
 Minister for Vocational Education and Skills
 Member for Yerrabi

ARRANGEMENTS BRIEF

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VENUE:	Isabella Plains Medical Centre, 9 Arakoon Crescent, Isabella Plains
HOST:	<p>Isabella Plains Medical Centre Name: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]</p> <p>ACT Health Name: Leonie McGregor, Deputy Director-General, ACT Health Directorate Mobile: [REDACTED]</p>
DAY:	Friday
DATE:	19 October 2018
TIME:	9.00 am
TIME COMMITMENT:	30 minutes
CATERING:	N/A
DRESS CODE:	Business
YOUR ROLE:	To announce the grant recipients through a media doorstep style press conference and participate in a short tour at the practice
WHERE TO PARK:	In the Isabella Plains Medical Centre car park
WHO WILL MEET YOU:	[REDACTED] and Ms McGregor will meet you outside the entrance of the Isabella Plains Medical Centre
ADVISOR ATTENDING:	Minister's Office to confirm
AUDIENCE:	Representatives from participating general practices, grant recipients, members of the community and local media

ACT Legislative assembly

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CANBERRA

<p>VIPs:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister • Michael De’Ath, Director-General, ACT Health Directorate • Leonie McGregor, Deputy Director-General, ACT Health Directorate • [REDACTED] of Isabella Plains Medical Centre • [REDACTED] Isabella Plains Medical Centre • [REDACTED] Interchange General Practice
<p>PAST INVOLVEMENT:</p>	<p>You announced the opening of the grants in early February 2018.</p>
<p>SENSITIVITIES:</p>	<p>The Grant Fund applications closed in early April 2018. The delays in announcing the recipients may result in negative commentary from applicants, with unsuccessful applicants likely to be disappointed not to receive funding</p>
<p>ORDER OF CEREMONIES</p>	<p>8.55am: Chief Minister and Minister Fitzharris arrive and are greeted by [REDACTED] and Ms McGregor</p> <p>9.00am: Short tour of practice commences with Chief Minister, Minister Fitzharris and media. Tour facilitated by [REDACTED]</p> <p>9.15am: Media are assembled for doorstep style press conference at the entrance to the practice. Chief Minister to open press conference and then hand over to Minister Fitzharris to speak</p> <p>9.22am: Photo opportunity with grant recipients and opportunity for further media interviews</p> <p>9.30am: Event concludes. Chief Minister and Minister Fitzharris free to depart</p>
<p>MEDIA:</p>	<p>A joint Barr/Fitzharris media alert and media release has been prepared</p>
<p>SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS</p>	<p>Chief Minister – Facebook page Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Facebook page ACT Health – Facebook page</p>

SPEAKING NOTES

Announcement of the Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund recipients

Friday 19 October 2018 | 9 - 9.30am

Acknowledgements:

I would like to acknowledge the Ngunnawal people who are the traditional custodians of this land on which we are meeting and pay respect to the Elders of the Ngunnawal Nation both past and present. I extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in attendance today.

VIPs

- Chief Minister, Andrew Barr
- [REDACTED] of Isabella Plains Medical Centre and other representatives of the Practice
- ACT Health Directorate representatives

Thank you Chief Minister.

It's great to be here in Canberra's south and to be announcing the expansion of local health services for the more than 85,000 people who live in this beautiful part of the ACT.

In 2016, the ACT Government made an election commitment to introduce an initiative to support bulk billing general practices in the ACT.

So I'm pleased to be here today to deliver on that promise and announce the recipients of the first of the bulk billing grants.

Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Grants that will allow access to more affordable, high quality health care for people living in Tuggeranong.

We know that our general practices play an important role in keeping Canberrans healthy. That is why we have been determined to provide additional support to improve access to GP clinics in suburbs that need it the most.

The ACT government has invested close to one million dollars in this grant initiative to make it easier for people to find a local doctor and a local practice where they will receive the care they deserve, regardless of their personal circumstances.

More than \$600,000 has been awarded to the Interchange General Practice and Isabella Plains Medical Centre as part of this major investment in primary healthcare.

With this funding these two practices will expand their bulk billing health services in Tuggeranong.

\$500,000 will be going to the Interchange General Practice to cover the complete fit-out for a new general practice which will focus on providing medical services to vulnerable people in our community.

The practice will provide medical services to people in need of support with:

- drug and alcohol dependency;
- issues of sexuality and gender diversity;
- chronic conditions; and
- mental health conditions.

I understand that the new practice will have seven to eight rooms with the capacity for up to 35,000 consultations per year when fully staffed.

The second recipient, Isabella Plains Medical Centre, will receive a grant of over \$100,000.

These funds will go towards an upgrade of its existing centre to improve access for clients with a disability and to expand the centre's bulk billed services.

The upgrade will include renovations and fitout of two rooms of the practice to allow for ease of access and to improve privacy for patients.

I have been told that the practice will also use this grant to improve the functionality of its website and to purchase medical equipment for use at outreach clinics and home visits, which will help the centre to extend its care to those unable to leave their homes.

These grants will not only improve access to a more affordable health care, but will also ensure that the people in our community who are going through complex health needs in their lives, have a convenient, reliable and high quality general practice nearby to turn to for help when they need it.

The ACT Health Directorate will also work with the Capital Health Network on ways to improve access to bulk billing general practices.

Canberra has some of the lowest bulk-billing rates in the country. By encouraging more GPs to bulk bill we can make it easier for people, in particular those most in

Meegan Fitzharris MLA

need, to find a local doctor who they can rely on regardless of their personal circumstances.

I am looking forward to seeing the new and improved practices up and running and delivering high quality general practice health care services to the Tuggeranong community.

I look forward to making further announcements on the GP grants over the next week.

ENDS

Additional background information on bulk billing grants:

Interchange General Practice will offer bulk billing for around 85 per cent of consultations, including to:

- children under 16
- Health Care Card holders
- Pensioner Concession Card holders
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders.

The Isabella Plains Medical Centre will offer bulk billing to:

- humanitarian entrants
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who wish to be bulk billed
- those accessing services under the NDIS
- those aged over 70 years of age
- palliative care patients

Meegan Fitzharris MLA

- all health assessments and chronic disease management items in all patient groups
- vaccination clinics



Media release

MEEGAN FITZHARRIS MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing
 Minister for Transport and City Services
 Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research
 Member for Yerrabi

19 October 2018

More access to GP bulk billing in Tuggeranong

Tuggeranong is set to get a new general practice and an expansion of another general practice through the ACT Government's Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund.

More than \$600,000 has been awarded to the Interchange General Practice and Isabella Plains Medical Centre as part of this major investment in primary healthcare in Canberra's south, which will not only improve general practice facilities, but also make it easier for people in Tuggeranong to find a bulk billing GP in the area.

The Interchange General Practice will use its grant of \$500,000 to establish a new seven to eight room practice with a focus on bulk billed primary health care services for vulnerable people in our community.

The new practice will deliver up to 35,000 consultations per year when fully staffed. It will provide better medical services for people with drug and alcohol dependency, issues of sexuality and gender diversity, chronic conditions and mental health conditions.

The Isabella Plains Medical Centre will use its \$111,000 grant in a multifaceted way by upgrading its premises to improve access for clients with a disability and to expand its bulk billing, making its services more affordable.

The expansion of the practice will include the refurbishment of two rooms of the practice and the purchase of new equipment for use at outreach clinics and home visits, extending the Centre's remote care capabilities. It will also include a revamp of their website.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing Meegan Fitzharris said the grants were about incentivising more clinics and more doctors in Canberra's south to offer bulk billing to more patients, in particular those most in need.

"Canberra has some of the lowest bulk-billing rates in the country," Minister Fitzharris said.

"By encouraging more GPs to bulk bill we can make it easier for people, in particular for those most in need, to find a local doctor who they can rely on, regardless of their personal circumstances.

"Our GPs also play an important role in keeping Canberrans healthy and out of our hospitals, which is why improving access to GPs and affordable primary healthcare is so important.

"I look forward to making further announcements on the GP grants over the next week," Minister Fitzharris said.

Statement ends

Date: 19 October 2018

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Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing
 Minister for Higher Education
 Minister for Medical and Health Research
 Minister for Transport
 Minister for Vocational Education and Skills

Member for Yerrabi

18 October 2018

Better access to bulk billing in Tuggeranong

Attention news editors and chiefs of staff

ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr, and Minister for Health and Wellbeing Meegan Fitzharris, will tomorrow (FRIDAY) announce recipients of the ACT Government's Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund.

The Fund is about incentivising more clinics and more doctors in Canberra South to offer bulk billing to more patients, in particular those most in need.

As part of the announcement, the Chief Minister, Minister Fitzharris and grant recipients will be available to speak to the media.

- WHAT:** Announcement of recipients of the Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund
- DATE:** Friday 19 October
- TIME:** 9am
- WHERE:** Isabella Plains Medical Centre, 9 Arakoon Crescent, Isabella Plains

Statement ends

Media contact/s:

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Meegan Fitzharris MLA - Arrangements brief

Attachment A: ARRANGEMENTS BRIEF

FUNCTION:	Announcement of the Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund recipient in Coombs
VENUE:	110 Woodberry Avenue, Coombs, 2611
HOST:	<p><u>National Health Co-op</u> Name: [REDACTED] of National Health Co-op Mobile: [REDACTED]</p> <p><u>ACT Health</u> Name: Leonie McGregor, Deputy Director-General, ACT Health Directorate Mobile: [REDACTED]</p>
DAY:	Monday
DATE:	22 October 2018
TIME:	12.00pm
TIME COMMITMENT:	30 minutes
CATERING:	N/A
DRESS CODE:	Business
YOUR ROLE:	To announce the grant recipient through a media doorstep style press conference
WHERE TO PARK:	Ample parking is available on site at 110 Woodberry Avenue, Coombs
WHO WILL MEET YOU:	[REDACTED] and Mr De'Ath will meet you at the site
ADVISOR ATTENDING:	Minister's Office to confirm
AUDIENCE:	National Health Co-op representatives and local media
VIPs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] of National Health Co-op • [REDACTED] of National Health Co-op • Michael De'Ath, Director-General, ACT Health Directorate • Leonie McGregor, Deputy Director-General, ACT Health Directorate
PAST INVOLVEMENT:	You announced the opening of the grants in February 2018, and on Friday 19 October grant recipients in Tuggeranong were announced
SENSITIVITIES:	The Grant Fund closed in early April 2018. The delays in announcing the recipients may result in negative commentary from applicants, with unsuccessful applicants likely to be disappointed not to receive funding.

ORDER OF CEREMONIES	<p>12:00 pm: Minister Fitzharris arrives and is greeted by [REDACTED] and Mr De'Ath</p> <p>12:05 pm: Media are assembled for doorstep style press conference at the site. Minister Fitzharris opens press conference and provides opportunity for questions. National Health Co-op representative also addresses media</p> <p>12:20 pm: Photo opportunity with Minister and National Health Co-op representatives</p> <p>12:30 pm: Event concludes. Minister free to depart</p>
MEDIA:	Media alert and media release has been prepared with quote from National Health Co-op
SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS	Minister for Health and Wellbeing – Facebook page ACT Health – Facebook page
OUTSTANDING REGULATORY ISSUES	N/A

SPEAKING NOTES

Announcement of Bulk Billing grant recipient in Coombs

12pm, Monday 22 October

Acknowledgements:

I would like to acknowledge the Ngunnawal people who are the traditional custodians of this land on which we are meeting and pay respect to the Elders of the Ngunnawal Nation both past and present. I extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in attendance today.

VIPs:

- [REDACTED] of National Health Co-op
- [REDACTED] of National Health Co-op
- Michael De'Ath, Director-General, ACT Health Directorate
- Leonie McGregor, Deputy Director-General, ACT Health Directorate

It's great to be here again in Canberra's south to be announcing the expansion of local health services for the suburb of Coombs in the Molonglo Valley.

In 2016, the ACT Government made an election commitment to introduce an initiative to support bulk billing general practices in the ACT.

So I'm pleased to be here today to deliver on that promise and announce the third recipient of the Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund.

This \$350,000 grant, which is being awarded to the National Health Co-op, will mean better access to more affordable, local health care for people living in the Molonglo Valley area.

We know that our general practices play an important role in keeping Canberrans healthy. That is why we have been determined to provide

additional support to improve access to GP clinics in suburbs that need it the most.

With the grant, the National Health Co-op is establishing a new multidisciplinary general practice right here in Coombs, taking the number of National Co-op clinics to nine in the ACT.

Canberra has some of the lowest bulk-billing rates in the country.

Through these grants the ACT Government is ensuring its citizens have better access to more affordable health care.

This is about offering bulk billed services that are convenient, reliable and high quality, for locals when they need them.

I am looking forward to seeing the new practice up and running and delivering high quality general practice health care services to the Molonglo Valley community.

Just last week I announced the two other successful recipients in Tuggeranong; the Interchange General Practice and the Isabella Plains Medical Centre.

These practices received over \$600,000 between them to establish a new general practice that bulk bills and to expand bulk billed services, respectively.

Ultimately this is about keeping people well and out of hospital, and our local GPs play a vitally important role in doing that task.

To have additional bulk billed services means we are giving people greater access to the primary health care services that they need at the right place and at the right time.

ENDS



Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing
 Minister for Higher Education
 Minister for Medical and Health Research
 Minister for Transport
 Minister for Vocational Education and Skills

Member for Yerrabi

22 October 2018

Better access to GP bulk billing in Coombs

The National Health Co-op will soon be offering more bulk billing services in the Molonglo Valley with the National Health Co-op receiving an ACT Government grant to establish a new GP clinic in Coombs.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing Meegan Fitzharris said \$350,000 in funding through the Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund has been awarded to the Co-op for their clinic in Coombs, making it easier for residents in Molonglo to find a local bulk billing doctor.

“The ACT Government is encouraging more GPs to bulk bill to make it easier for people, in particular those most in need, to find a local doctor who they can rely on, regardless of their personal circumstances,” Minister Fitzharris said.

“The funding that has been provided to the Co-op will help the establishment and fit-out of the eleven room clinic in Coombs.

“The new clinic will not only incorporate bulk billing for a visit to the GP, but for other primary healthcare services as well, making it multidisciplinary.

“It will have a big impact on increasing the level of local healthcare available for residents in Molonglo.”

Adrian Watts, Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Co-op, said the Co-op was strongly supportive of the Government’s efforts to improve access to bulk billed primary health care services.

“This new clinic in Coombs, funded under this grant, will enable local residents of the growing Molonglo Valley to access affordable health care services much closer to home,” Mr Watts said.

“The new clinic will have space for up to 10 bulk billing GPs as well bulk billing psychologists, dieticians, nurses and other allied health care providers.

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Meegan Fitzharris MLA

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Minister for Transport
Minister for Vocational Education and Skills

Member for Yerrabi

“The Government’s investment in the establishment of the new clinic in Coombs recognises the importance of the National Health Co-op as a community-owned provider of affordable health care in the ACT,” Mr Watts said.

Minister Fitzharris said the Bulk Billing Grants Fund is the right incentive to get more clinics and more doctors, offering bulk billing to more patients in Canberra’s south.

“We know Canberra has some of the lowest bulk billing rates in the country,” Minister Fitzharris said.

“This new clinic in Coombs is the third recipient of these grants, following last week’s announcement in Tuggeranong. I am pleased to say that through this almost \$1 million investment we will see two new general practices established and another expanded in Canberra’s south.”

Statement ends

Media contact/s:

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Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing
 Minister for Higher Education
 Minister for Medical and Health Research
 Minister for Transport
 Minister for Vocational Education and Skills

Member for Yerrabi

21 October 2018

Better access to bulk billing in Coombs

Attention news editors and chiefs of staff

Minister for Health and Wellbeing Meegan Fitzharris, will tomorrow (MONDAY) announce a recipient of the ACT Government's Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund.

The Fund is about incentivising more clinics and more doctors in Canberra's south to offer bulk billing to more patients, in particular those most in need.

As part of the announcement, Minister Fitzharris and the grant recipient will be available to speak to the media.

WHAT: Announcement of recipients of the Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund

DATE: Monday 22 October

TIME: 12pm

WHERE: 110 Woodberry Avenue, Coombs, 2611

Statement ends

Media contact/s:

Claire Johnston T (02) 6205 0022 M [REDACTED] ClaireV.johnston@act.gov.au

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GBC18/580

Portfolio/s: Health & Wellbeing**ISSUE: SUPPORT FOR BULK BILLING GENERAL PRACTITIONERS****Talking points:**

- The 2017–18 ACT Budget announced \$1.05 million (GST exclusive) over three years for the ‘Better care when you need it—Support for bulk billing GPs’ initiative as part of the ACT Government election commitment to deliver a grant scheme to support the establishment of bulk billing general practices in the ACT.
- The Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund aims to encourage the expansion or establishment of new general practices with a demonstrated commitment to bulk billing in the Tuggeranong and Molonglo Valleys. The aim is to provide residents in those areas with better access to affordable, connected, quality primary health care.
- Grant guidelines were developed in consultation with key stakeholders: Health Care Consumers’ Association (HCCA); Australian Medical Association (AMA) ACT; and Capital Health Network (CHN).
- Applications have been assessed by a panel, including the key stakeholders above, and three grant recipients have been selected.
- On 19 and 22 October 2018, it was announced that a total of almost \$1 million in funding would be distributed between the three grant recipients, to establish two new general practices, one in Molonglo, and one in Tuggeranong, and to expand the services of an existing Tuggeranong general practice.
- All three grant recipients have a demonstrated commitment to bulk billing, particularly for vulnerable population groups.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/10/2018
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 79143
Information Officer name: Patrick Henry
Contact Officer name: Catherine Eadie Ext: 71541
Lead Directorate: Health

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The remaining funding will be utilised to support a project to investigate options to:
 - improve the accessibility of primary health care for consumers; and
 - encourage bulk billing in the ACT.
- ACT Health Directorate has recently received a Freedom of Information (FOI) request for documents related to the Bulk Billing General Practices Grant Fund. This request will be managed in accordance with the FOI Act.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/10/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 79143
Information Officer name:	Patrick Henry	
Contact Officer name:	Catherine Eadie	Ext: 71541
Lead Directorate:	Health	