



RICK WILSON MP

Federal Member for O'Connor



MEDIA RELEASE

Rebuilding general practice

10 June 2014: The Australian Government is providing \$52.5 million in new infrastructure funding to rural and regional areas around Australia for practices to build the facilities they need to take on more trainees.

Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson said the Government will provide 175 infrastructure grants of up to \$300,000 to successful applicants and require a matched contribution from the practice

"This will improve GP infrastructure, as well as encourage investment in our regional communities.

"Additional funding of \$35.4 million over two years will also be made available through the General Practice Rural Incentives Programme, providing financial incentives to around 13,000 doctors working in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia.

"The Government has already committed \$40 million over four years to support extra medical intern places in private hospitals and regional and rural areas. Under this measure, interns began their one year placements in January 2014," Mr Wilson said.

The 2014-15 Budget delivered funding for an extra 300 GPs to be trained each year, Australia-wide, boosting GP training places from 1,200 to 1,500 in 2015.

The Budget is part of the Government's Economic Action Strategy to build a strong, prosperous economy and a safe, secure Australia.

"GP training places will continue to rise in number, as we work to reduce the costs of GP training, improve frontline services and cut red tape.

"The Abbott Government is delivering on its commitment to double the Practice Incentive Payment for general practitioners who teach medical students from \$100 to \$200 per session," Mr Wilson said.

The 2014/15 Budget demonstrates the Abbott Government's commitment to provide new infrastructure funding to rural and regional areas.

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