



WAPHA
WA Primary Health Alliance

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PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,
COUNTRY WA
An Australian Government Initiative

Media Release

Report calls for greater emphasis of primary care

3 May 2017

A new report highlights the need to strengthen the role of Primary Health Networks and the role of general practice to improve Australia's primary health care system, WA Primary Health Alliance says.

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) chief executive officer Learne Durrington said the Grattan Institute's report, *Building better foundations for primary care*, recommends the Federal Government build on its Primary Health Network initiative to strengthen and expand local services for people including the chronically ill.

"We know that people who suffer chronic illness are best cared for in their local community and the report calls on a greater emphasis in primary care," Ms Durrington said.

The Grattan Institute report revealed avoidable hospital admissions cost the health system more than \$320 million each year.

Ms Durrington said WAPHA, which operates WA's three Primary Health Networks, is committed to working with general practice to support them and help reduce the number of avoidable hospital admissions.

The report also highlighted the need for better Federal-State relations, which Ms Durrington said was already happening in WA.

"WA Primary Health Alliance has had a positive relationship with the State Department of Health since commencing our operations in July 2015," Ms Durrington said.

"We have formed a strong relationship with WA's new State Health Minister and Mental Health minister Roger Cook and look forward to working with the State in areas of collaboration to ensure we deliver a primary care system that meets the needs of all West Australians."

Read the Grattan Institute's report, *Building better foundations for primary care* [here](#).

ENDS

- WA Primary Health Alliance operates WA's three Primary Health Networks; Perth South, Perth North and Country WA.



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