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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



College of GPs welcomes grants for carers

The RACGP has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that they will give more than \$4 million in one-off funding grants for 269 services across Australia that provide respite for carers.

RACGP President Dr Chris Mitchell said support for respite care is very important.

"GPs see first-hand the physical and emotional impacts of the strain placed on carers within the wider community.

"Carers have an increased risk of suffering depression, especially without adequate support services to assist them. These grants will make a real difference in easing the day-to-day demands placed on carers by ensuring that Australian respite services are able to assist more people in the community, thus contributing to the overall health and well-being of more carers," he said.

Dr Mitchell said GPs provide care to patients on a daily basis and are in an ideal position to understand what is working in each sector of the health care system and what isn't.

"Adequate respite care helps people stay in the community and out of hospital or residential care facilities.

"As Australia continues to cope with an ageing population, and an increase in chronic disease, more demands will be placed on GPs and carers alike. We welcome the Federal Government's move as a step in the right direction for the respite for carers and look forward to further initiatives in this important area of health in the future," he said.

Community-based respite services are funded to provide respite opportunities in a variety of settings, such as:

- day care centres which provide respite for a half or full day;
- in-home respite services, including overnight care and personal care services;
- activity programs;
- respite for carers of people with dementia and challenging behaviour; and
- flexible respite in community settings.

For information about respite in your area please call Carelink on 1800 052 222 or for emergency respite outside of business hours on 1800 059 059.

For more information about the grants, visit

www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-je-je001.htm

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About the RACGP

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) sets and maintains the standards for quality clinical practice, education and training, and research in Australian general practice, and represents Australia's urban and rural general practitioners. Visit www.racgp.org.au.