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# MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



## College of GPs welcomes evaluation of no-fault injury and disability scheme

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that they will now begin and evaluate a no-fault injury and disability scheme model.

The Product Commission Inquiry will investigate the feasibility of new approaches for funding and delivery long term disability care and support, including consideration of whether a no-fault social insurance approach to disability is appropriate in Australia. The Productivity Commission will report to Government in July 2011.

RACGP President Dr Chris Mitchell said that the college is fully supportive of an approach that improves care and support for all people with a disability, their carers and their families, including the concept of a no-fault social insurance approach to disability in Australia.

"GPs are frustrated by the amount of paperwork required by the legal system to explore adequate compensation and support for victims of accidents or misadventure. New Zealand has had a version of this scheme for some time – it is a much fairer system, where much of the money for compensation does not go into the legal system – it goes straight to patients and their health outcomes.

"The implementation of a no fault injury and disability scheme will benefit patients and stop many at risk patients from falling through the cracks. As Australia continues to cope with an ageing population and an increase in chronic disease, more demands will be placed on GPs and patients alike.

"We welcome the Federal Government's move as a step in the right direction and look forward to further initiatives in this important area of health in the future," he said.

– *ends*

### Media contacts

Melanie Fontolliet, RACGP Media & PR Manager, 03 8699 0513 or 0424 461 622  
Jessica Warne, RACGP Media & PR Coordinator, 03 8699 0442

### 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](http://www.racgp.org.au).