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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



College of GPs welcomes investment in the future of general practice

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) welcomes the government's commitment to increasing the number of general practice training places.

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing, has today announced that the number of prevocational training places will be increased from 400 to 975 by 2013-2014. In addition, the number of vocational training places will be increased from 812 to 1200 by 2014.

Dr Chris Mitchell, RACGP President, said that he warmly welcomes this significant boost to general practice training places.

"Our current general practice workforce is ageing, with the average age of vocationally recognised GPs now over 50 years. Investment in general practice is critically important to combat general practice workforce shortages throughout Australia. This is a very important investment by the government into general practice, and investment in infrastructure within our practices to support these places would also be very welcome," he said.

"The evidence is clear that more GPs will lead to better health outcomes, enhanced health prevention, better management of chronic illness and lower rates of unnecessary hospital admissions," concluded Dr Mitchell.

The college is committed to work with all levels of government to improve access to high quality care to better meet the needs of our local communities.

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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.