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MEDIA RELEASE

Budget: a Move in the Right Direction

The CEO of General Practice Registrars Australia (GPR), Dr Andrew Gosbell today congratulated the Minister for Health, Mr Greg Hunt for the many proactive and innovative aspects of last night's Health Budget.

"I am particularly excited about the intention to 'ensure Australia has the workforce necessary to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians'," said Dr Gosbell.

"The focus on improving access to health services in regional, rural and remote areas is a critically important initiative."

"GPR is enthusiastic about *A Stronger Rural Health Strategy* and is available to assist with planning enhanced teaching and training arrangements for GP registrars," said Dr Gosbell.

"Our national benchmark research has given insights into a range of training issues and could support plans for an effective, sustainable GP workforce in areas where there are ongoing problems, thus ensuring better health outcomes for rural and remote areas," he said.

"We can also assist with planning appropriate incentives for GP registrars."

"Our research identifies a range of problems with training of GP registrars and addressing these will increase capacity for success arising from the government's well considered new initiatives," said Dr Gosbell.

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