



Better Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease

Chronic disease is defined as illness that is prolonged in duration, does not often resolve spontaneously, and is rarely cured completely.

How chronic disease is managed through general practitioners, allied health professionals, and other primary health care providers will be examined in a new inquiry into the prevention and management of chronic disease in primary health care.

In announcing the inquiry, Chair of the House of Representatives Health Committee, Steve Irons MP said chronic disease has been identified as Australia's biggest ongoing health challenge, incurring significant and increasing costs.

"However, many chronic diseases can be efficiently managed in primary health care settings, reducing costs and taking pressure off the specialist and hospital systems. This inquiry seeks to find examples of best practice in chronic disease prevention and management, leading to possible improvements in care and ensuring a better spend of taxpayer money," Mr Irons said.

The committee will examine opportunities for Primary Health Networks to coordinate and support the prevention and management of chronic disease in primary health care, and will look at the roles of State and Territory Governments as well as private health insurers, in preventing and managing chronic disease.

The committee will also examine ways in which multidisciplinary teams prevent and manage chronic disease and look at models of healthcare that improve outcomes for high end frequent users of medical and health services.

Submissions addressing the terms of reference are invited by Friday 31 July 2015. The preferred method of receiving submissions is by electronic format lodged [online](#) using a My Parliament account.

For media comment please contact the office of Mr Steve Irons MP, Chair on 0419 993 677. **Other enquiries:** please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee's webpage: www.aph.gov.au/health.