



Newcastle Chronic Disease Management and Research on the Agenda

On Thursday, 31 March 2016, the House of Representatives Health Committee will conduct a public hearing in Newcastle as part of its Inquiry into Chronic Disease Prevention and Management in Primary Health Care. The Committee will hear from clinicians, research organisations, hospitals and private health insurers about the chronic disease programs and treatment trends in the Hunter region.

Between 2003 and 2007 the Hunter New England Local Health District had the equal second-lowest average life expectancy in NSW, similar to the Murrumbidgee with 80.5 years. In 2010, 40 per cent of Hunter New England men and 28 per cent of women were overweight. Additionally, the Hunter New England area had the second highest number of hospital separations of any local health district in NSW in 2010-2011, at 339 649.

Steve Irons MP, Chair of the Committee said: 'The Committee will visit Newcastle to hear about the important programs being run in the Hunter region to promote better lifestyles and management of existing chronic disease. The important work of organisations such as Alzheimer's NSW, Stroke and Disability Information Hunter and TROG Cancer research will help the Committee better understand the pressures that chronic disease place on the region.'

'The complex care arrangements for the diverse population of the Hunter region capture the pressures that all Australians face in leading healthy lifestyles and managing the increasing burden of chronic disease in our society. The people and organisations that the Committee will hear from are important parts of the community that ensure chronic disease is given the attention it requires.' Mr Irons said.

Details of the hearing are:

Thursday, 31 March – 8.30 am to 1.40 pm
Charlestown Bowling Club, Lincoln Room
5 Lincoln Street, Charlestown

A program and further information about the inquiry is available at: www.aph.gov.au/chronicdisease

Audio of the hearing will be broadcast live at: www.aph.gov.au/live

For media comment, please contact Jonathan Martin from the office of Mr Steve Irons MP on 0439 412 855. **Inquiry information:** please contact the committee secretariat on: (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/health.