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National Health Performance Authority Report – Healthy Communities

Background

The National Health Performance Authority (NHPA) is an agency developed as part of the national health reform process. It is tasked to report on the activity and performance of Local Hospital Networks (LHNs) and Medicare Locals (MLs) against a set of agreed indicators set out in the Performance and Accountability Framework. The NHPA will be publishing its reports quarterly in 2013.

Healthy Communities Report

The initial Healthy Communities Report (the Report) draws primarily on data collected in 2010-11. Members should note that this precedes the establishment of Tranche 1 MLs by a number of months. The NHPA does point out that using pre-MLs data allows for a broad baseline of performance to be published and reported against in the future.

The Report examines the use, patient experiences and the perceived health of populations living in each ML against a range of indicators, including:

- GP attendances
- Measures of patient experiences
- Wait times for GP services
- After-hours GP service utilisation

The report suggests that where Australians live has a noticeable impact on the speed of access to, and satisfaction with, GP services.

The VHA hopes that the scope of future Healthy Communities Reports is broadened beyond the public's utilisation of GP services, and includes greater detail about population health data and the use of primary care services other than GPs.

The Health Communities report is available for download and reading from the NHPA website, at: <http://www.nhpa.gov.au/internet/nhpa/publishing.nsf/Content/Healthy-Communities-Australians-experiences-with-primary-health-care-2010-11>

For further information about the Healthy Communities Report and the NHPA, please contact:

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