



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Aged care industry welcomes eHealth reform

The Aged Care Industry IT Council (ACIITC), an umbrella organization representing eHealth deployment in the aged care industry, has welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Gillard of nearly \$400M to assist with rebates for electronic consultations.

Aged care providers provide care in both residential and community care settings and would welcome the opportunity to significantly expand the range of consultative services that can be offered via the internet.

One of the greatest barriers to this happening in the past has been the lack of funding available to GPs to reimburse them for the provision of consultations provided electronically.

If GPs could provide out of hours and remote services to people in aged care it could significantly improve the attractiveness for GPs for the provision of services for clients within care settings. For eg: when a GP is contacted by a nurse late at night and orders a change to medication for an aged care resident, the GP has to alter the resident's medication chart, upgrade their own record in their surgery, remember to complete a script and send to the pharmacist, often with little or no financial reward.

The Aged Care Industry IT Council welcomes this announcement as it has the possibility of significantly improving the attractiveness of aged care to GPs as well as making their workflows considerably more efficient.

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