

# MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

## **Australian Primary Care Collaboratives Program Extended**

The Improvement Foundation (IF) is pleased to announce that the Australian Primary Care Collaboratives (APCC) Program has been extended until 30 June 2012. The implementation of the Program will take shape in a number of ways – all of which continue to focus on developing and delivering quality improvement programs that support the delivery of measureable, systematic and sustainable improvements to primary health care systems and patient care, in line with IF's core objectives.

IF will be working with Medicare Locals and Divisions of General Practice in the following ways:

### **IF will be working closely with the first tranche of Medicare Locals to support them to embed a sustainable culture of continuous quality improvement**

IF will bring together key members of the first tranche of Medicare Locals, in an environment of peer learning to address some of the immediate challenges facing their Medicare Local. By using a structured approach to quality improvement to address the key issues facing each Medicare Local at a regional level, knowledge and ideas will be rapidly spread across the network.

Additionally, IF will support these Medicare Locals to plan, implement and monitor quality improvement activities as an integral part of their core business. This activity will include the delivery of a locally based quality improvement workshop for their general practices and other health services.

### **IF will maintain the momentum for quality improvement by delivering a national APCC Program wave**

Recognising the demand and enthusiasm for Collaboratives amongst general practices and other health services, IF will deliver another Collaborative wave to continue its work in supporting health care teams to use continuous quality improvement to identify goals to improve patient care and work towards these goals in a systematic way.

Participants will benefit from exchanging ideas and experiences by networking with peers, learn the skills to move from reactive to proactive patient care, and measure improvements in patient care, particularly for people with, or at risk of chronic conditions.

“We are working in a fairly dynamic environment as the current health reform process rolls out, and the APCC extension helps to keep the focus on improving health outcomes for patients and embedding continuous quality improvement into the everyday practice of general practices, other primary healthcare services and the organisations that support them. In fact, we believe this Program is one of the key ways to support the Government’s health reform process, so we’re pleased to be contributing in such a strong way,” says Mr Colin Frick, Chief Executive Officer of IF.

Delivered by IF and funded by the Department of Health and Ageing, the APCC Program works with small teams of general practices, Aboriginal medical services and other primary healthcare services on a large scale to improve patient care. The Program uses real examples, shared learning and peer support, a rigorous measurement system and innovative training to address the gaps between evidence and practice. The APCC Program can demonstrate significant improvements in the level of care people with, or at risk of, diabetes, coronary heart disease and other chronic conditions have received as a result of their general practice or health service participating in the Program.

To find out more about the APCC Program visit [www.apcc.org.au](http://www.apcc.org.au). If you’d like to know more about IF’s other quality improvement programs and training opportunities, visit [www.improve.org.au](http://www.improve.org.au).

**ENDS**

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