

Media Release

4 December 2015

Announcement of New NHC Clinics in Macquarie and Higgins

Today, ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA, joined, Mr Peter Carlin, CEO - SERVICE ONE and Mr Adrian Watts, Managing Director - National Health Co-op, to announce the sites of the next two National Health Co-op clinics in Canberra.

"I am very pleased to officially announce the establishment of two new National Health Co-op clinics in Macquarie and Higgins" Mr Barr said. "The benefits of bulk billing doctors to the health of the community is well understood and I congratulate the National Health Co-op for its continued work providing access to these important services".

The new clinics in Macquarie and Higgins will be opening in early 2016 and are being established with the support of SERVICE ONE Mutual Limited. These clinics follow the recent opening of the Wanniasa clinic in Tuggeranong under the same partnership.

"We are thrilled to help support the continued expansion of the National Health Co-op's presence in the Canberra region." said Mr Carlin. "The National Health Co-op embodies our commitment to continually invest in our community" he said.

The new Macquarie and Higgins clinics bring the total number of National Health Co-op's sites in Canberra to eight. The new clinics continue the National Health Co-op's rapid growth and it further expands the National Health Co-op's ability to provide bulk billing GPs to its growing membership.

When fully operational, the new clinics will add an additional ten General Practitioners, two Practice Nurses and four allied health professionals to the National Health Co-op's rapidly expanding clinical team.

"The strong growth of the National Health Co-op in Canberra is a testament to the community's support for the model" said Mr Watts. "The Board and I are committed to working with likeminded organisations to continue the National Health Co-op's expansion with the aim of making a substantive positive impact on the health of Australians."

The NHC has experienced rapid growth in memberships since its establishment in 2010 and now provides primary health care services to almost 10 per cent of the ACT's population.

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Background

The NHC is a not-for-profit consumer owned co-operative established to provide affordable and accessible medical and health services to the local community where it operates.

The NHC provides members with unlimited access to primary care services such as general practice, podiatry, psychology, asthma and diabetes education, mental health, physiotherapy, child, teen and aged health, dietetics, counsellors and social workers.

The opening of our newest clinics in Wanniasa, Macquarie and Higgins is the result of a relationship between the NHC and SERVICE ONE Mutual Limited that will lead to the establishment of at least four new clinics in the Canberra region over the next 12 months. This relationship is a tangible demonstration of the community working to solve its own health needs without the need for direct government intervention.

The NHC has experienced rapid growth in memberships since its establishment in 2010 and now provides primary health care services to almost 10 per cent of the ACT's population. The NHC is actively working on its national expansion with the aim of making a substantive positive impact on the health of all Australians.

SERVICE ONE has been providing Canberra's with quality financial and banking solutions for over 50 years. They started in the Canberra region at the universities as the University Co-operative Credit Society. Earlier in the year, SERVICE ONE restructured its business to adopt more of a social enterprise model enabling a greater level of investment in the community encouraging sustainable social solutions for the ACT and surrounds. The collaboration with the National Health Co-op is an example of this and SERVICE ONE will continue to explore options when it comes to the betterment of the community and its customers (known as Members).

Both the NHC and SERVICE ONE are Member-owned, co-operatives that operate for the benefit of their Members and the broader community.