

25 November 2010

Government Supports Health Consumers NSW

The NSW Government will contribute towards the establishment of a non-government patient advocacy group – Health Consumers NSW – Deputy Premier and Minister for Health Carmel Tebbutt announced today.

The new group will receive a \$100,000 grant towards establishment costs and the development of a detailed work plan.

Health Consumers NSW will be the peak health consumer's organisation in NSW and is the result of the vision and advocacy of Betty Johnson AO and Sally Crossing AM – two experienced community and consumer advocates.

"Our central mission in Health is to ensure the patient is at the centre of everything we do and active participation from those who use the system is vital in helping us achieve this," Ms Tebbutt said.

"I congratulate Ms Johnson and Ms Crossing on their vision in establishing this non-government organisation (NGO) and am pleased the Government has been able to support them with a one-off grant.

"The new NGO has received support from a wide range of community organisations including Alzheimer's Australia and Cancer Voices NSW.

"The new NGO will provide an independent and informed voice for health consumers and be a vehicle to influence decision making to achieve better health outcomes for patients.

"Health Consumers NSW will advocate for increased consumer participation in the health system and develop training and education programs to assist the effectiveness of their participation.

"This will help consumers participate in health policy, and will build on our efforts to encourage greater consumer participation in healthcare service delivery through the establishment of Local Health Networks and across the full sector.

"Through providing a mechanism for consumer participation in the development, implementation and evaluation of health services, Health Consumers NSW will help drive key priorities in Caring Together including new ways of caring and better experiences for patients."

The organisation is expected to be up and running early in the new year.

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