DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE

MEDIA RELEASE

Broadband enabling better chronic disease management

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, today launched a new e-health project improving chronic disease patient care.

"CDM-Net is a great example of the digital revolution taking place in healthcare as the Government establishes Australia's 21st century broadband foundation," Senator Conroy said.

"Patient care plans are an important part of chronic disease management and providing online and real-time collaboration means they are easier and more effective to use."

"These types of innovations have significant positive implications for the economics of healthcare and patient welfare."

The Minister launched CDM-Net today at Geelong Hospital. The project is a collaboration between Precedence Health Care and partners and received funding under the Government's Clever Networks program.

Trials of CDM-Net in the Barwon South-Western Region of Victoria and the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia have shown significant improvements in care plan use and collaboration.

"The National Broadband Network will be a key enabler for e-health applications and CDM-Net highlights the kind of services we can expect in the future."

"The Government recently called for funding proposals under the new \$60 million Digital Regions Initiative and CDM-Net is an example of the types of collaborative, scalable solutions we are thinking of."

Digital Regions Initiative online: www.dbcde.gov.au/digitalregions

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Contact: Tim Marshall (Minister's Office) 0408 258 457

Michael Georgeff (Precedence Health Care) 0411 193 247