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Collaboratives Program will continue

The Improvement Foundation Australia (IFA) is understandably disappointed with the announcement in the Federal Budget 2008 of funding cuts to the highly successful Australian Primary Care Collaboratives (APCC) Program. However, IFA remains positive about the Program's potential to improve health outcomes and will work with the Commonwealth on ways to maximise Program outcomes.

Despite a significant cut to APCC Program funding, IFA remains committed to the Program's continued implementation and the benefits it will bring to Australian health consumers and General Practice. IFA is moving forward as planned with the upcoming NSW, QLD & ACT State Wave (commencing in late May) and the WA, SA & NT State Wave (commencing in July).

"Although we will need to reconsider the Program's implementation strategy post the initial waves, we believe there are considerable benefits for practices that participate. Practices that have participated in the Program have achieved outstanding results and their patients are better off as a result. We expect these benefits to continue and waves will commence shortly" said Colin Frick, IFA Chief Operating Officer. "IFA will continue to work positively with the government to maximise Program outcomes wherever possible and continue to ensure that funding provided is applied responsibly" he said.

The APCC Program has enabled practices to achieve significant, measurable and sustainable improvements in the management of diabetes and coronary heart disease. The new phase of the Program will have an improved focus on the use of medical and business information systems to improve patient access to primary care and overall practice performance.

Practices interested in becoming involved in this highly sought after quality improvement Program should contact their Division of General Practice.

For more information on the APCC Program visit www.apcc.org.au

For more information on Improvement Foundation Australia visit www.improve.org.au

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