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Health Portfolio 13

More Resources and free Needles for Diabetes Sufferers in the ACT

The ACT Government will provide additional resources to enhance the ACT's progress towards an integrated model of diabetes care, the Minister for Health and Community Care, Michael Moore, announced today.

"Diabetes is a serious, but all too common, disease in our community," Mr Moore said.

"From 1 July, we will provide additional endocrinology support as well as extra allied health personnel, such as dietitians, social workers and psychologists with paediatric expertise.

"These extra resources will significantly improve the management of diabetes."

Mr Moore also announced that the ACT Government will provide free needles and syringes for diabetes sufferers in the ACT.

"Sufferers sometimes need to inject insulin up to six times a day and the cost of needles and syringes can impose a significant financial burden," he said.

"We want to ease this burden by enabling free access to needles and syringes."

Full details of the scheme are still under negotiation with the Commonwealth Government and Diabetes Australia.

Mr Moore thanked the ACT Diabetes Council for its work over the past year.

"The Council has played a key role in overseeing the implementation of an integrated model of diabetes care: an exciting and clever reform process which places the ACT in the forefront of diabetes care in Australia," he said.

"The Council will be involved in a number of other key initiatives over the next twelve months, which will continue to improve the clinical management of diabetes across the Territory.

"I am proud of the achievements of the ACT Diabetes Council to date and I believe that these, and other activities in which the Council is involved, will go a long way to improve the health outcomes for people with diabetes in the ACT," the Minister said.

H13_Integrated diabetes