



THE HON WARREN SNOWDON MP
Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health
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MEDIA RELEASE

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ANU Weighs into Debate on Health Reform

One of Australia's premier universities is lending its weight to the Rudd Government's debate on health reform.

The Australian National University is launching the National Health Reform Series of policy briefings at Parliament House today.

Speaking at the launch, the Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon, said the discussions would enrich the Government's debate over health reform.

"This is the first of six briefings to be held between now and the middle of the next year and will bring together some of the nation's leading experts on this country's health system and on health reform," Mr Snowdon said.

"There is clearly a need for change. Our health system is still working reasonably well, but it is simply not up to the challenges of the 21st century.

"It has been left on autopilot for too long - gaps are appearing in service delivery, inequities in outcomes are increasing, and parts of the system are overly complex and inefficient."

Mr Snowdon said these issues have been the subject of national consultations led by Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd.

"After the launch of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission's report which recommended an overhaul of the health system, we embarked on a nationwide tour.

"To date we have held more than 70 of these consultations involving over 5,000 people in hospitals, health clinics, town halls and community centres in the four corners of the nation," Mr Snowdon said.

"The ANU Health Reform Series adds another dimension to this process because, not only will people be able to hear what these eminent people have to say, they will be able to interact with speakers through live online streaming.

"I commend the ANU, and Vice-Chancellor Ian Chubb for this exciting initiative," he said.

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