



Diabetes
Australia

Media Release

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Medicare Local obesity data no surprise given the diabetes epidemic

Diabetes Australia welcomed the release of new overweight and obesity prevalence data for each Medicare Local today.

"Type 2 diabetes is arguably the most preventable consequence of this obesity epidemic" said Prof Greg Johnson "We are seeing the continued rise of the diabetes epidemic with almost 100,000 new cases developed in the past year alone, and most of this is type 2 diabetes"

Prof Johnson said the most important thing now was a new National Diabetes Strategy focused on prevention. "The Coalition Government has given an election commitment to a new national diabetes plan and action and we want to work with them to ensure this works. We can prevent more than half of all type 2 diabetes but we need comprehensive action including a National Diabetes Prevention Program that can deliver evidence based structured lifestyle change courses for the 2 million Australians with pre-diabetes".

Diabetes Australia has laid out a framework for a new National Diabetes Strategy which includes preventing people developing type 2 diabetes. Whole of community interventions including a national front of pack food labeling system, food reformulation, reducing consumption of sugar sweetened drinks, and reducing junk food marketing to children are included in the Diabetes Australia prevention framework.

Diabetes Australia is the national body for people affected by all types of diabetes and those at risk, and is committed to reducing the impact of diabetes working in partnership with consumers, health professionals and researchers.

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Diabetes Australia is a member of the
International Diabetes Federation