

Dear Doctors,

We are all busy. We have full and taxing days in the consulting room with our patients, some of us have other clinical commitments +/- educational responsibilities +/- professional roles, many of us are running businesses +/- wrangling families of different shapes and sizes, we are all trying to keep up with clinical evidence and further our knowledge and skills with online courses and journals and seminars. At the same time we are hoping to fit in exercise and leisure pursuits and to nurture our relationships.

It's no surprise that our interest in the "big picture" of health policy might be limited by these immediate concerns and/or diminished by a cynical view that the more things change the more they stay the same. However it seems that real change is afoot. There is a drive for more cost-effective and more patient-centred health care delivery in the current climate. Primary care, and more specifically our business of general practice, is under review and it seems sensible that we should try to "be in on the ground floor" so that change is for the better and informed by our real-world knowledge and experience.

Where's all this leading? It's blatant promotion for the lunch forum on the future of primary care to be led by Professor Claire Jackson and Leanne Wells in Bungendore on Saturday 12 November 11am-2:30pm or in Wollongong on Monday 28 November from 6:30-9:00pm.

It's a really important opportunity for local GPs, practice principals and practice managers to knock heads with two people who have huge experience in primary care and deep insight into the changes ahead and the implications for general practice. Claire has been active and respected for her role in GP education and research, primary care reform and as a clinician and supervisor in part-time general practice. She was instrumental in setting up the Divisions of General Practice and was president of the RACGP. Leanne was CEO of the ACT Medicare Local and is now CEO of the Consumers Health Forum of Australia.

As colleagues we will brainstorm what these changes might mean for own individual day-to-day work and for our GP businesses and for health systems in our region and more generally. Our regional primary health network, COORDINARE, wants to hear what we think and to work out how best to support us in adapting to change.

Do look at the flyers, register and come along with your questions and ideas, gripes and experiences:

- [Bungendore](#)
- [Wollongong](#)

Very best wishes and looking forward to seeing you in Bungendore on the 12th, Dr Lisa Cutfield, GP at Bungendore Medical Centre, and Queanbeyan area GP cluster leader for the South Eastern Primary Health Network (COORDINARE).