



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

AMANDA RISHWORTH MP
Federal Member for Kingston

MEDIA RELEASE

**GP AFTER-HOURS GET A BOOST IN THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS OF
ADELAIDE**

After-hours support for local GP services in Christies Beach, Aldinga and Seaford will get a boost following the announcement of more after-hours services by the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon and Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth.

Minister Roxon said after-hours grants will help local clinics like Dyson Family Practice, GPConnect After Hours Clinic Aldinga and the Seaford Day & Night Clinic.

“For many Australians, GP clinics are the first port-of-call when they fall ill, but because people don’t just need GPs during business hours, the Gillard Government is investing in after-hours GP services.

“The grant is part of the Gillard Government’s \$10 million General Practice After-Hours Grants Program,” Minister Roxon said.

Amanda Rishworth, Member for Kingston, said the announcement was great for the Southern Suburbs of Adelaide.

“These three clinics will receive a grant of \$100, 000, meaning more local residents will receive after-hours services in our community.

“The support we offer GPs in providing after-hours services means that more people in the local community can see and contact a doctor when they need to,” Ms Rishworth said.

Ms Sue Gibson, Practice Manager at the Seaford day and Night Clinic welcomed this federal funding.

“This funding will help us to continue to provide high quality GP services to the surrounding community after hours ” Ms Gibson said.

The General Practice After-Hours Grants underwrite the Government’s commitment to reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments and build on previously announced grant rounds, meaning that more than 300 communities will benefit during 2010-11 from after-hours GP services.

Successful organisations will receive a two-year grant of up to \$100,000 to assist them with costs such as incentives for GPs, wages for support staff and other operating costs incurred after-hours.

The Australian Government is working to provide a nationally consistent after-hours health service. From July 2011, Australians will have access to after-hours GP advice through the National Health Call Centre Network.

This will be further enhanced by Medicare Locals coordinating face-to-face GP after-hours services from mid-2013 to provide all Australians with convenient and timely after-hours medical advice and care.