



Level 5, Health Sciences 2  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### 2009 Budget – comment on health reforms

**Health Issues Centre** welcomes the broadening of the roles of Midwives and Nurse Practitioners outlined in the 2009 Budget as well as the provision of greater resources for family carers.

Changes to the roles of health professionals are part of broader reform of the Australian health workforce to improve health consumer access to timely and effective care.

**Health Issues Centre** reminds policy makers and service providers that consumer understanding and acceptance of such changes are an important issue. Sound communication with and inclusion of patients, carers and the community are vital to supporting changes in the roles of health professionals. **Health Issues Centre** urges all government and other health agencies to include consumer views when planning the implementation of such change. Consumer consultation is especially valuable in assisting health professionals understand how changes in service provision may affect clinical relationships with health consumers.

Examples of effective consumer involvement in improving health services can be found on the HIC website at <http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/>

**Health Issues Centre** is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that began in 1985 to promote equity and consumer perspectives in the Australian health system. Our mission is to improve the health outcomes for Australians, especially those who are disadvantaged. We work with a wide range of consumers, health providers, researchers, governments and other health organisations to achieve this through:

- Health professional training and education
- Policy analysis and advocacy
- Research and evaluation
- Facilitating consumer inclusion
- Project development and management

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