

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Better access for ADHD patients through GPs

AMA Queensland has commended the Queensland government for expanding patients' access to ADHD treatment via their trusted GP.

"Doctors know patients with ADHD are facing ongoing difficulty in getting specialist psychiatric and paediatric treatment, especially for public hospital specialist appointments," AMA Queensland President Dr Nick Yim said.

"These changes are considered and sensible, limiting authorised prescribers to highly trained GP specialists who have obtained fellowship through a medical college.

"GPs work in collaboration with psychiatrists and paediatricians, referring complex patients on for specialised care when they need it.

"That ensures patients receive holistic care, not just a script for medication.

Dr Yim said patients with ADHD must receive a comprehensive assessment and consideration of non-pharmaceutical treatments in addition to medication.

"That includes things like referral to psychologists or social workers and assistance to make lifestyle changes through dietitians, personal trainers and other allied health professionals.

"That is the safest model for patients and wards against the risk of fragmented care and the proliferation of unethical business models that exploit vulnerable patients and clinicians, like we've seen for medicinal cannabis.

"Queensland GPs are already able prescribe ADHD medications for children aged 4 to 18 years so this expansion to adults will allow patients to continue their treatment under the care of their regular and trusted GP.

"AMA Queensland has been calling for these changes for some time and it is pleasing the government has listened to doctors in committing to this reform."