



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**

Good Morning

Yesterday, the Minister for Health, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, and the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, made a joint announcement of a new program relating to the provision of telehealth services.

The NBN Enabled Telehealth Pilots Program aims to promote the provision of high quality healthcare services, particularly in aged care, cancer care and palliative care, using telehealth services in the home. This program also aims to demonstrate how the increased reliability and capability of the National Broadband Network (NBN) will enhance the provision of these telehealth services. The program will particularly benefit those Australians living in rural, regional and remote communities where the NBN is enabled.

Organisations will be eligible to apply for funding if they are able to provide aged, palliative and/or cancer care services to consumers in NBN early release areas, to implement sustainable, scalable and robust pilots that demonstrate new or improved models of health service delivery made possible by the NBN. The focus of these pilots will be on health service delivery in the home, including home-based monitoring and intervention, to provide more efficient and effective care, reduce hospitalisations and travel time and improve clinical outcomes.

As the first stage of this program the department has released the guidelines for public consultation. This will allow the department to make sure the program is appropriately targeted. As a valued stakeholder, the department would value your input on these draft guidelines.

These will be accessible on the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) webpage, at <http://health.gov.au/ehealth-NBNtelehealth>. Feedback on the draft guidelines closes at close of business on Monday 6 February 2012.

For further information or to provide feedback on the guidelines, please contact Ms. Kate Rose at: [NBNtelepilots@health.gov.au](mailto:NBNtelepilots@health.gov.au) or by phone at (02) 6289 9160.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Forman', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ms. Liz Forman  
Assistant Secretary  
eHealth Strategy and Legislation Branch  
23 January 2012