

### **02 Dec 2021 5:23 PM AEST - RACGP acknowledges Health Minister Greg Hunt during a critical time for Australia**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks Health Minister Greg Hunt for his service after he announced his retirement from federal politics.

Minister Hunt announced his retirement in Parliament today but said he would remain in the role until the next Federal Election.

RACGP President Dr Karen Price thanked Minister Hunt for his service.

"I thank Minister Hunt for his service, particularly as Health Minister, and wish him well," she said.

"Everyone involved in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and national vaccine rollout, including Minister Hunt has worked pretty much 24 hours a day, seven days a week for nearly 2 years, doing all we can to protect our community. I hope he gets to enjoy spending more time with his family.

"Minister Hunt has been evidence-based throughout the pandemic response and COVID-19 vaccine rollout, and I have personally appreciated that. The fact that he's been willing to listen to the science has meant we've been able to manage the virus and come to a good outcome for Australia, particularly compared to other countries.

"The next year is a pivotal one for general practice. Among other issues, the Federal Election will no doubt be focused on accessible healthcare for every Australia, particularly as the health system deals with the backlog of care that was missed during the pandemic, on top of rising chronic disease and mental health concerns.

"General practice is unique in our health system, providing holistic, person-centred care with a focus on prevention, keeping people healthy and living their best lives. Our country's leaders need to recognise the critical importance of primary care to the health of our nation before it's too late."

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