**Abstract Submission – 15 minute oral session**

**Background**

A range of funding sources using different payment models finances healthcare in Australia. Medicare funds general practice on a fee for service basis, Primary Health Networks (PHNs) are government-funded organisations commissioning care within local communities while private health insurers (PHIs) fund hospital care and are not permitted to insure GP services. Public and private funders have a mutual interest in effective chronic disease management in primary care to improve cost efficiencies.

**Aims**

Sonic Clinical Services (SCS) has implemented a model of chronic disease management that incorporates a pooled funding approach by private and public funders with the aim of increasing investment in primary care to improve the health outcomes and reduce flow on expenditure.

**Method**

WellNet is a suite of GP-led chronic disease management programs. Developed by SCS, its unique elements include risk stratification, electronic shared records, care coordination, change management support and an alternate funding model. SCS has collaborated with PHNs and PHIs in a pooled funding arrangement to deliver WellNet in general practices. SCS has partnered with Sydney North PHN and 4 PHIs to fund the BeWell program through 5 general practices in NSW. In Victoria, SCS has partnered with Australian Health Service Alliance, a service company representing small to medium size PHIs, to deliver the program through 10 general practices.

**Results**

Early results include improvement in care coordination, GP and patient engagement and achievement of patient identified goals. Lessons were learned around addressing different PHIs needs and expectations and finding consensus in the approach. A formal independent evaluation will be undertaken at the conclusion of these pilots.

**Conclusion**

This partnership between private and public funders is a different approach to resourcing primary care. It is sustainable as it is designed around MBS funding with affordable investment by PHNs and PHIs.