



West Belconnen Health Centre

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### Bright future for community owned and operated health care

In the same week that President Obama's historic mutual-based health bill passed Congress, ACT patient-owned medical centre **West Belconnen Health Co-operative** was launched by Federal Member for Fraser, Bob McMullan, and Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly, Mary Porter on Thursday 25 March.

Members who pay between \$10 and \$50 a year to join the centre (only the second of its kind in Australia after **Westgate Health Co-operative, Victoria** receive bulk-billing, affordable extra health services and a say in how the co-op is managed. The co-op raised a third of its start-up capital from its community owners. The remaining 2/3 (around \$500,00) came from Federal and ACT grants. We hope to see more of this sustainable model which offers *"community-owned health care at a fraction of the cost"*.

### Missed our Inaugural Lecture?

Watch the full lecture: *"Investing in Alternative Economic Futures"*, delivered by Dame Pauline Green, Parliament House, Canberra, Monday 15 March 2010 on our [website](#).