

Success story shows super clinics can work

Andrew Bracey

TWENTIETH birthday celebrations for a pseudo GP super clinic in Brisbane's north are evidence that the controversial model can work, according to the centre's founders.

The Kedron Park 7 Day Medical Centre offers 24-hour GP services co-located with pharmacy, radiology, pathology, physiotherapy, podiatry, dental services, dietitians and practice nurses.

The centre – purchased by corporate medical centre operator IPN in 2001 – is also a training venue for registrars

and medical students.

Founding GP Dr Steve Hambleton estimates the centre has treated “most of the north side of Brisbane” since its establishment in 1988.

“We have always had great success operating as a one-stop shop and we are flattered the government has chosen to support this model of care,” Dr Hambleton said.

“There is no reason why family doctors can't get together with all these other services and make it work – we have been

here 20 years and we have proved it.”

Despite praising the government's adoption of the super clinic model, Dr Hambleton was critical of the policy's design and implementation, saying it created an “unfair” advantage over existing practices.

“The playing field is not level – why not invest in all of general practice? General practice needs infrastructure money not just at [31 locations] – it needs it at all the locations,” he said.



Dr Hambleton



Multimorbidity a common problem

Kathryn Eccles

THREE in 10 patients attending general practice in Australia are being managed for multiple illnesses, the first study of its kind suggests.

The data, collected by BEACH researchers, found a quarter of the overall population – more than five million people – were managed for at least

MIMS August prescribing update

NEW PRODUCTS

• **Zoledronic acid** (Aclasta) is a bisphosphonate used in the treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women to reduce the incidence of hip, vertebral and non-vertebral fractures, and patients

Recommended starting dose is 80 mg once daily (hypertension) or 40 mg twice daily (heart failure). In postmyocardial infarction, treatment may be initiated as early as 12 hours after a myocardial infarction.

After an initial dose of 20 mg twice daily, subsequent therapy should be

is not adequately controlled on amlodipine or valsartan monotherapy may be switched to combination therapy with Exforge. The recommended dose is one tablet per day.

Exforge is available on a private prescription as 5/80 mg, 5/160 mg