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community news

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## Inner South Canberra Community Council

**By** Gary Kent, chair

THE adequacy of health services in the inner south was the focus of the Inner South Canberra Community Council Health Forum on April 16.

We heard excellent presentations on local health services from the ACT Medicare Local, Southside Community Services and the HealthCare Consumers Association.

However, there was general agreement by those in attendance that more needs to be done to ensure the inner south receives the same standard of health services as provided in other parts of Canberra.

For example, we do not have a health centre and the cost of hiring a General Practitioner is higher here than in other parts of Canberra due to special concessions being made available for other so-called less privileged areas.

We will be making submissions to government on these and other health issues.

During the week the Expert Reference Group on the Size of the ACT Legislative Assembly released its report recommending an increase in the size of the Assembly.

The council endorses this approach, believing that our parliament is currently too small to do the work entrusted to it.

We urge all parties to agree quickly to new arrangements so they are in place before the next ACT election.

This will enable better representation of local communities, a larger pool from which to draw ministers, and more opportunity for MLAs to respond to the detailed needs of their constituents.

It would be easy to take the easy way out and stick with the status quo. However, the group makes a compelling case for a bigger Assembly.

As we stated in our submission, the needs of the inner south are not being properly represented under the current system.

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