



Concept plans for the roof of the new GP plus health care centre

# Veggie garden boosting health checks

**When a vegetable garden was established at a health care centre on South Road in November 2008, visitation to the health consultancy increased five-fold.**

It was that correlation between the social interest in the garden and an increase in health care visits that sparked the Department of Health's interest in a DPLG incentive program to design roof-top gardens.

Graeme Hopkins, formerly Principal Urban Designer in the Strategic Policy and Sustainability Division and now contractor to DPLG, has been working with the Department of Health to establish a roof-top vegetable garden.

The garden will be part of the new GP Plus health care centre scheduled to open later this year at Marion, adjacent the site of the new State Aquatic Centre.

"What they found at the South Road centre was that people would come to visit and socialise at the vegetable garden and while they were there, go in to get a health check up," Graeme said.

"That's the kind of thing the Department of Health wants to encourage," Graeme said.

The Department of Health has now approved plans for the roof-top vegetable garden which will sit on top of the two-storey health care centre.