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The Chairperson
Standing Committee on Broadband in Rural and Regional Communities
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) and practicing in Mildura, Victoria, a provincial area within Australia. As well as being a practicing Obstetrician, I'm also involved with teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students in the area of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and I am a representative on the Provincial Fellows Committee of the College.

Here in Mildura, we are fortunate to have a Monash University Clinical School which does have access to ISDN and the town itself does have cable for internet access etcetera.

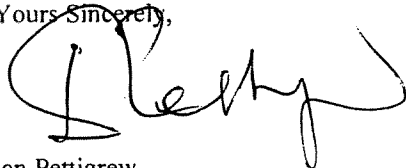
From a rural perspective, Broadband internet is highly desirable in order to improve access to metropolitan areas via the way of video conferencing and telemedicine. With the ever increasing technology involved in medicine, which is expensive and therefore unavailable in rural areas, Broadband would enable us to access the facilities in the metropolitan areas and we could get rapid access via Broadband of their imaging results etcetera.

Videoconferencing is becoming increasingly important. Through the Monash University we are able to carry out video conferencing from Bairnsdale, in the east of Victoria through Bendigo, central Victoria and Mildura in North West Victoria. This facility is very good but would be much improved with Broadband access to improve the quality of the videoconferencing.

The use of Broadband would also aid in the development of the electronic medical record to enable the records to be transmitted much more quickly so it there could be interface not only between Private Practitioners rooms and the hospitals but also from hospital to hospital.

I know that you have had a submission from the executive of the College but these are my own personal thoughts regarding the use to Broadband and how it could improve a lot of the Provincial Medical Practitioners and also Medical Teachers.

Yours Sincerely,



Ian Pettigrew