



**The Royal Australian  
and New Zealand  
College of  
Obstetricians and  
Gynaecologists**

ABN 34 100 268 969

21 December 2007

***Excellence in Women's Health***

Attention: Mrs Cheryl Samuels  
Standing Committee on Broadband in Rural and Regional  
Communities  
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Dear Mrs Samuels,

I write in response to correspondence dated 13 November 2007 inviting the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to comment on The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Broadband in Rural and Regional Communities.

Following consultation with our rural Fellowship the following are seen as the key areas for your consideration;

- Significant problems with teleconferencing and videoconferencing, including lack of facilities, poor technical support, poor quality vision and audio and slow ISDN connection. Whilst some health jurisdictions have expressed interest in promoting these technologies as alternatives to face-to-face patient-doctor contact, the infrastructure has not followed.
- Lack of access to live teleradiology and ultrasound.
- Need for rapid internet access to evidence based medicine such as the Cochrane database and the, National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) would support clinical practice.
- Secure electronic medical records would improve the quality and safety of care provided to the large population of indigenous women. These women are a very mobile population who receive care from a range of providers in different places over a huge geographical area. An electronic record would support outreach visits and GP shared care.

Thank you for providing the RANZCOG with the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Tippett  
**President**