

**Submission  
No 226**

**INQUIRY INTO HEALTH OUTCOMES AND ACCESS TO  
HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SERVICES IN RURAL,  
REGIONAL AND REMOTE NEW SOUTH WALES**

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I have been providing locum GP services to NSW and Queensland hospitals predominantly in remote regions for 10 years.

We have a crisis in recruitment of medical personal in these towns, as evidenced by the recent initiative to try and run hospitals via telehealth by the WNSWLHD. Rural people need access to medical practitioners in their towns.

The reasons for the crisis have been evolving over decades. Many or most of the international graduates who have completed their 7years are moving to larger centres. We keep talking about all the reasons they and our young graduates are making the decision not to consider a long-term career in "The Bush".

In my mind there are 3 main reasons:

1. Remuneration needs to be attractive.
2. Simplification of the business. At present solo practice is not viable due to the complexity of the MBS, time spent negotiating contracts with hospitals, chasing incentive payments, and credentialing/accreditation processes. If a solo practice is viable then all other practice sizes will be viable as well.
3. Improved recognition. Work as a rural procedural GP is one of the most demanding. If it is performed well it requires at least the same level of application as any specialty.

Unfortunately the solution will be difficult to achieve due to the need for State and Federal government to respond.

The best outcome of this inquiry would be to try and initiate a joint Federal and State working party to force the necessary changes to achieve attractive and long term medical practitioner positions in rural Australia.