

**Submission  
No 64**

**INQUIRY INTO VETERINARY WORKFORCE SHORTAGE  
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Dr Tim Reed

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I am a partner in a small animal hospital in Port Macquarie which is not truly rural but has to compete against big cities to employ vets. Every clinic within our region is advertising for vets and has been doing so for years. It seems as if new graduates or any vets for that matter, don't want to come and work away from the big cities. This may be due to the fact that we have to be on call at night and over weekends as no 24 hour facilities exist.

My suggestion would be to consider encouraging new graduates to come rural by reducing their HECS debt proportionately for the number of years worked rural?

If they were to benefit by paying back a smaller HECS, maybe they would consider leaving the big cities?