

NOTICE



COMPLAINTS ABOUT CHANGES TO SERVICES

QUICK FACTS

- The NSW Government is constitutionally responsible for the delivery of healthcare in NSW.
- Everyone in NSW pays taxes, as well as a Medicare levy, which means you have already paid the government for the healthcare you are meant to receive.
- In the past, the Medicare rebate was set fairly to make sure that GPs could pay their staff and meet all the costs of running a practice & providing care.
- But over the last 10 years, the Commonwealth Government has capped the Medicare rebate to force you, the taxpayer, to pay more for healthcare.
- The NSW Inquiry into Rural Health also recently found that the NSW Government has treated rural people unfairly in access to healthcare.
- Changes to migration rules by the Commonwealth Government over the last 10 years has also reduced the number of overseas doctors who can get a visa to work in Australia, and has made it easier for them to work in the cities.
- The rural GP crisis, and the impact it is having on rural practices, is a direct result of the policies of the NSW and Commonwealth Government and is NOT a result of the actions of your local health professionals.

COMPLAINTS

- GP Clinics are run by small business people or charities.
- These Clinics are not responsible for making sure you can access health care.
- What Clinics do is to help Governments to fulfil their obligation to the Australian people, for which all Australians pay taxes, to provide fair access to healthcare.
- From time to time, GPs retire or relocate to another town or city.
- Whether a rural practice is able to recruit a replacement GP depends on the policies of the government and whether those policies encourage doctors to work rurally or in big cities.
- Unfortunately, the policies of our governments largely focus on increasing the number of doctors working in outer metropolitan suburbs of cities.
- As a result, when doctors retire (like Dr Puxty and Dr Bolshen) it is very difficult to recruit a replacement doctor because the government's policies do not support rural people or rural GPs.

IF YOU WANT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS SITUATION AND THE LOSS OF RURAL GP CLINICS ACROSS AUSTRALIA, WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL MEMBER AND LET THEM KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

