

**Submission  
No 40**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE No. 2  
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL HEALTH  
REFORM AND GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION WITH REMOTE, RURAL AND  
REGIONAL COMMUNITIES**

**Name:** Mrs Louise Bligh

**Date Received:** 31 October 2024

The current state of medical assistance- which is a basic right in Australia- for people in regional and rural NSW is well past the alarming state. My husband and I retired to Mudgee 12 months ago- a new hospital, a prosperous town- seemed to have a lot going for it. Little did we know how dire the situation would become in a 12 month period. The two medical centres have now closed their books to new patients, the small towns around Mudgee no longer have doctors at all and we are now faced with having to travel 3 1/2 back to Sydney to see doctors. We are fortunate that we can do this at the moment but god help us if as we get older and can't travel as easy or we develop any chronic medical condition! The local hospital is going to bear the brunt of this and soon they won't be able to cope.

- there are no new doctors being encouraged to become GPs and worse still being encouraged to come to rural areas

- there is a chronic workforce planning situation needed to be addressed that increases the pool of people studying for medicine and incentivising general practice over specialist practice- this is a 10 year strategy play and must start now regardless of the government of the day

- looking at immediate opportunities for other medical workers (nurses/pharmacists) to dispense medications/injections etc. It is ridiculous that I cannot get antibiotics for a simple eye infection and as I am not in the GP system here now had to go to the emergency department of the hospital wasting valuable resources

I live in a rural area where the population is expected to grow exponentially in the next 5 years due to the renewables energy strategy. How can one Government department be pushing this when there is not the basic infrastructure to cope and no other departments/governments are jumping up and down to call this out. The view of politicians and political parties are too narrow.

Living in the bush shouldn't be like living in a third world country- we pay taxes and our Medicare rebates and get none of the benefits.