

**Submission
No 49**

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

Name: Mr Peter Leotta
Date Received: 31 October 2024

To the Chairperson and Committee members,

The sad state of affairs regarding health services in Gulgong has prompted me to make this submission.

My name is Peter Charles Leotta. I am a seventy seven year old ex National Serviceman who relocated to Gulgong fifty two years ago.

At the time, Gulgong had a fully functioning hospital and at least two doctors.

Over the intervening years, we have had at least one doctor and sometimes three or more.

In 2010, on a spurious claim of asbestos being found, the hospital was closed and in its place a Health One was built. Through the efforts of the then State Member, Andrew Gee, Gulgong was able to secure an MPS as well.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Mudgee Medical Centre has closed its books on new patients, so that now we have to travel to Dubbo, a one and a half hour drive, to gain access to a medical practitioner.

I have heard unverified reports of overseas trained doctors working as Uber drivers in the city due to the AMA's reluctance to give them accreditation.

For your consideration, I would propose a scheme whereby the onerous university HECS fees associated with becoming a doctor are waived or greatly reduced if the graduate doctor spends at least four years in a country town such as Gulgong.

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Thank you for taking the time to read my submission,

Yours sincerely

Peter C. Leotta