

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

Dear Sir/Madam

I am informing you of a recent experience my son had in obtaining an appointment for a medical prior to commencing a new job.

He recently came to his father and me after closing his business in New South Wales and tried to make an appointment at the 2 Medical Clinics in Bairnsdale only to be told that they did not take new patients and to try clinics in Lakes Entrance, Maffra and Sale. Maffra could not help even though he had been there many years ago. He managed an appointment at Sale. This meant a 50 minute drive after some days wait and at some cost. He had had no income for several weeks and needed to borrow a car to get there.

He has now begun employment today in the NT at Melville Island which is isolated and an area where one expects to find it difficult to find medical treatment

It is apparent to me that in country areas very little is done to provide enough medical practitioners to care for the growth of population . In the 15 years we have lived in the Bairnsdale area there has been a huge increase in homes and population and the number of doctors has not increased.

Those of us living in regional areas deserve much better consideration and support for our medical needs.

Hoping for much needed urgent change

Mrs Patricia Coloe