

PETITION: GP shortage in Proserpine and the Whitsundays

TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

This petition of concerned certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House:

- the severe shortage of general practitioners of medicine in Proserpine and the Whitsundays;
- the unsustainable situation of the limited number of general practitioners in Proserpine and the Whitsundays being overworked, in some instances regularly attending to patients for up to 12 hours a day or more;
- the resultant pressure being placed on the taxpayer-funded public health system;
- the fact that another general practitioner has left the district in early 2012 which further exacerbates the problem; and
- the fact that many medical centres in Proserpine and the Whitsundays have advertised extensively and repeatedly for Australian general practitioners without any applicants responding to those job offers.

We therefore ask the House to take every possible action to address the shortage of doctors in Proserpine and the Whitsundays, and in particular allow a greater allocation of Medicare Provider Numbers to foreign-trained general practitioners in the district and offer greater incentives for Australian general practitioners to relocate and work in rural areas such as Proserpine and the Whitsundays.