

Secretary,
Elton Humphery
The Senate Select Committee on Medicare
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission to the Senate Select Committee regarding proposed Medicare Reform

The problem in Australia is not a shortage of GPs, but their uneven distribution. Like most other professionals, tradespeople etc, GPs prefer not to work in rural and remote areas. Because of this, the cost of most goods and services are higher in rural/remote areas throughout the world. This is the reality people have to face.

However, considering that governments like to pander to their constituency, the proper way to address this problem is by offering additional financial incentives through higher PIP payments or higher rebates for rural practices.

The Government should NOT attempt to solve the issue of uneven distribution of GPs by imposing quotas for rural students in medical schools.

Due to these quotas, rural students with lower ENTER scores and lower UMAT scores (ie., **less able students**) are being offered places, thus discriminating against urban students. This current practice of quotas for rural students is highly unfair, un-Australian, highly divisive and lacks transparency. It is only a matter of time before this **malicious practice** becomes a major contentious issue.

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