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Thank you for the opportunity to have my say. I am a resident of Colac, and we have recently faced the prospect of losing our overnight Accident & Emergency medical services. I am a 51 year old female, and have a 16 year old daughter and a 14 year old daughter, and a 14 year old son. I am appalled about the possibility of this services' closure on so many levels. Colac is a vibrant small country town, with quite dense population in the surrounding areas. We are an ageing population. My personal concern is for the safety of my immediate family and myself and my 54 year old partner. Geelong is an hours drive away, and I feel as though this could be deadly if any of my beloved ones had a nasty accident or life threatening medical crisis. I work supporting people with intellectual, psychiatric and physical disabilities in a residential institution - I fear for the safety of my clients - many of these people have highly compromised health issues, and often need to access medical services at odd times of the night. I believe that of all of the options mooted at the community meeting by Geoff Iles, the most sensible one would be to close the health services at Birregurra - no cut is ideal, but these people are at least a little closer to Geelong. I am absolutely incensed that in this day and age, in a developed country we are facing this possibility. I believe that our hospital board have been fiscally irresponsible - there have been major developments in process that would have cost a lot of money - for example, the accommodation for student doctors - what's the point of having these if we can't run an overnight casualty facility? I am empathetic to the extra pressure that the nursing staff and paramedics will face, should this closure go ahead - how would nurses feel if they were unable to treat people who may literally die on the doorstep outside the hospital? I could go on, but these are the major points that I wish to express, thank you, sincerely,

Tam Kruger