

I am writing to you regarding the classification of the 'Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness area' and the impact it has on our practice. We were previously classified under RA5 but now RA2 and still expected to provide the same professional service. We provide medical treatment to the people of Stawell and surrounding districts and at the moment are the only clinic out of three in town providing after hours service to the local hospital. We find it very difficult to recruit doctor past the boundaries of Ballarat and yet we are under the same classification as them. The financial incentives for relocation and retention grants under the RA 2 are significantly less and yet we still expected to compete with the larger cities for doctors.

We feel the system is completely unfair and disadvantages the country practices.

Kind Regards

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