

I care for my 95 year old mother who is in reasonable health. I live in a country town. I have to travel 120 km to receive medical help for her (or myself). There are doctors who fly in for a few day (two weeks max) at a time but this does not offer continuing health support. I took my mother to the 'fly in fly out' doctor to have some stitches removed. He was not able to remove the stitches. His comment to us was "The nurse is away, I can't do it without her help, I don't even know where to find things in the dressing room" We left the surgery and travelled 120km to have a few stitches removed. This is simply NOT GOOD ENOUGH, we are not a third world country. I also took her to the Hospital thinking that one of their 'Fly in fly out' doctors may be able to help but was told they couldn't help us we had to go to the private doctor. (This is not uncommon at the hospital)

Recently a young man who is friend of the family became ill, he went to the public hospital three times and saw three different doctors, he went to the private 'fly in fly out' doctor there was no follow up or continuing health support for this young man. After one month of NO HELP his condition had become so critical that he was rushed to a hospital some 150km away. He is still in hospital and still very ill.

Any doctor that does set up practice in this town becomes so over worked that they leave again. One doctor is not enough for a town our size.

I know this is a 'common complaint' for people who live in country towns throughout Australia – it should not be and I don't believe it has to be. Maybe more politicians should live in country towns then we might get the facilities we need.

Thank You