

AUGUSTA MEDICAL CENTRE

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Senator Judith Adams
Western AUstralia



Dear Madam

Thank you for your fax, dated 15th May 2007 and inviting responses by 25 March.

As the incumbent in a small rural community with a high proportion of retirees, PATS is a facility that both myself and my staff call on regularly. Most of the time it works quite well, fulfilling the intentions of the original, benevolent legislators.

I cannot express any interest in comparing the service rendered locally with that received in any other part of the country. Hence my only interest in "guidelines" is when they are used as an excuse to withhold a benefit that would clearly be appropriate.

Of these excuses, the most obviously unfair come from blind adherence to "the list" of local specialists. Yes, we do have a vascular surgeon who visits Bunbury – once a month, booked out for a couple of months ahead. Yes, we do have an Xyz specialist who visits, occasionally but with enough variation in schedule to make a more distant appointment more appropriate. Sadly, those subtleties are not reflected in "the list" and the more pedantic approval clerks can cost much more in Medicare fees and patient frustration, let alone pain, than they save the PATS budget.

With best wishes

Jan Ravet 