

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We, the undersigned, express our concern that Bassendean is suffering from a chronic and severe GP shortage that is undermining the delivery of effective primary health services in the area.

Dr Stephen Wilson has been operating a GP clinic for 22 years and is struggling to find local doctors to assist. Dr Wilson cannot employ an overseas doctor as the Commonwealth Department of Health refuses to grant the Town of Bassendean 'District of Workforce Shortage' status – because it is arbitrarily defined as in the 'inner metropolitan region', even though its GP to population ratio is only a quarter of the national average.

We therefore ask the House to call on the Assistant Minister for Health to use her Ministerial discretion outlined in Section 6 of the Health Insurance (Section 19AB Exemptions) Guidelines 2012 to grant an exemption that allows Dr Wilson to employ an international medical graduate at his practice, or request the Department of Health classify Bassendean as a 'District of Workforce Shortage'.