



**East Grampians  
Health Service**

*the Health Service of choice*



Our Ref. NB:ga

12<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra 2600

Dear Sir

**RE : SUPPLY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN RURAL AREAS**

The significant reforms of training medical students, nurses and health professionals in rural locations is strongly supported by evidence as the way to supply the number of professionals required for the rural communities. I believe we are seeing evidence this strategy is working.

Rural education and training requirements, needs to be well resourced and supported which is occurring through Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing initiatives including, Health Workforce Australia and the Victorian Department of Health initiatives, including the Clinical Placement Network.

Rural doctors, nurses and health professionals who are undertaking teaching and training of rural students need to be strongly supported. Role modeling of successful and engaging rural health doctors, nurses and health professionals is thought to be a strong indication of health professionals intention to work in rural communities. We need to identify and remunerate these professionals for the work they do.

Yours sincerely

**NICK BUSH**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**