

Dear senate enquiry group,

I request consideration of the following regarding supply of health services and medical professionals in rural areas

- 1) The ASGC-RA system is unsatisfactory and provides a negative impact on rural areas when the peer classified areas are carefully reviewed. This needs urgent repair
- 2) The two tiered health system provides major inefficiencies in rural areas as a direct consequence of the public-private divide. Many barriers are artificial and a consequence of antiquated rules. Highly trained health professionals need to work at their peak to deliver services effectively, without duplication, and efficiency in rural areas. This holds for urban areas also. Please remove these barriers.
- 3) Innovative models to deliver health services need to be developed. This should include a close scrutiny of currently accepted definitions of “primary care providers”. To cater for the emerging health needs of our population in the future, we need to carefully define what primary health providers are, clarify or remove the term primary care provider, and look with enthusiasm to models that include the patient or person seeking health as the centre of the health equation, and accept as “primary” those meeting their needs at any given moment. This will mean they are the “primary” in their primary care. Such models will embrace doctors, nurses, allied health workers, in the care as equal parties.

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