



To: All CEOs

From: Resilient Communities

Organisation:

Date: 18 August 2021

Reference:

Priority: Low

Subject: Inquiry into Provision of general practitioner and related primary health services to outer metropolitan, rural, and regional Australians

IN BRIEF:

Operational Area:	Resilient Communities
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Senate appointed Community Affairs References Committee are calling for submissions into the above Inquiry by 30th September 2021.• In May 2018 WALGA conducted a Regional Health Services in Western Australia Survey of Local Governments. Local Governments raised concerns regarding the shortage and/or lack of adequate staffing in remote and regional locations.• WALGA's Policy Position 3.2.2 Regional Health Services supports continuing to advocate to prioritise regional health and the regional health workforce.
Action Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Governments are encouraged to provide submissions directly to the Inquiry or to WALGA by Monday 6 September 2021 for inclusion in a sector submission.

WALGA is coordinating a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the provision of GP and related primary health services to outer metropolitan, rural and regional Australians.

The full terms of reference of the Inquiry are:

The provision of general practitioner (GP) and related primary health services to outer metropolitan, rural, and regional Australians, with particular reference to:

- a. *the current state of outer metropolitan, rural, and regional GPs and related services;*
- b. *current state and former Government reforms to outer metropolitan, rural and regional GP services and their impact on GPs, including policies such as:*
 - i. *the stronger Rural Health Strategy,*
 - ii. *Distribution Priority Area and the Modified Monash Model (MMM) geographical classification system,*
 - iii. *GP training reforms, and*
 - iv. *Medicare rebate freeze;*
- c. *the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on doctor shortages in outer metropolitan, rural, and regional Australia; and*
- d. *any other related matters impacting outer metropolitan, rural, and regional access to quality health services.*

Local Governments are encouraged to provide feedback to WALGA through the survey [here](#) or by email to community@walga.asn.au by **Monday 6 September 2021**.

Local Governments can obtain further information or make a submission directly to the Inquiry [here](#).

**For further information please contact: Senior Policy Advisor Community, Vikki Barlow
(08) 9213 2074 or by [email](#).**