

**From:** [Theo](#)  
**To:** [Health and Environment Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Pumicestone Electorate Office](#)  
**Subject:** Health inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, 9 December 2021 3:45:20 PM

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To the secretary

Thank you for the invitation to speak and your patience in enduring our long winded stories. In the fullness of time we may have been clearer and following your offer are providing a written submission we decided to put our fingers to the key board.

Our personal concerns are about how the current and future medical services on the Island will look after our needs as we age. We are relatively new to the island and are in need of finding a suitable GP service that we can relate to and bulk bills as we are now pensioners. Our inquiries have not given us much comfort in being able to transfer to a local GP service due to a shortage in the area. To that end we continue to utilise our old services in Morningside and Carindale as an available and timely service. This is an hour drive each way and it underlines the limited Island service.

We have always been happy to take responsibility for our health and whilst we don't want to go to a doctor unnecessarily the availability of appointments to obtain things like scripts and specialist referrals requires a GP involvement. Recently we have been made aware that admission to an aged care facility also requires having a GP who will attend the home.

Additionally The shortage of GP's seems to have some roots in their role now for more involvement For example, I was diagnosed suffering from migraines approximately 45 years ago. It was a family doctor who was familiar with my history and we worked through a suitable treatment which was a codeine based tablet. I have taken these for the best part of my life and until recently I was able to buy these over the counter but for which I now need a script. We are hopeful of being able to find a suitable GP surgery on the Island in time. We are equally hopeful that the proposed mini hospital will also provide solutions. For us this facility should provide emergency services and facilitate specialist services in the best way possible.

I would also like to take the opportunity to discuss age care service provisions. I am the primary carer for my mother and father having recently placed them in a nursing home. For several years prior to this I have dealt with 'my age care', 'ACAT' and a service provider. One needs considerable aptitude to successfully negotiate their processes and understanding their nuances to come anywhere near a meaningful outcome in a timely manner. There is a disconnect between the needs assessment and final service delivery. The needs assessment is converted to budget dollars which is then converted to available time via a service provider. This process has many holes that ultimately result in a deficit of required services and less than satisfactory outcome. The relevance is that this expedites a person's passage to residential aged care as in home is insufficient and it also involves a significant hospital involvement.

Unfortunately the lines of demarcation between the state and federal funding models are not clear and understood and truthfully not important to us.

We would also like to mention private health insurance. The premiums getting ridiculous and the gap payments are growing much faster than inflation providing a reducing value for money. We are considering dropping our cover as there seems to be questionable benefits as pensioners.

In our endeavour to remain succinct we may be unclear so please feel free to contact me if clarification is required.

Thanks again for the opportunity

Theo and Elisabeth Moret

