

Inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system

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63

Submitted by:

Ali King

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Making the submission and your name public

Attachments:

See attachment

Submitter Comments:



ALI KING MP

Member for Pumicestone

Working hard for us



No. 063

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**Submission to the Queensland Parliamentary Health and Environment Committee
Inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland Public Health System.**

Dear Committee Members,

People in Pumicestone experience significant barriers to accessing to General Practitioner care, in a timely way and at all. This inability to access essential primary healthcare shifts a burden of failed, delayed and absent primary healthcare on our Queensland public health system, particularly hospitals.

I am restricting the scope of this submission to the harm caused by removal of District of Workforce Shortage status from Pumicestone communities in 2019 and failure to reinstate it in the change to the Distribution Priority Area system.

While other aspects relevant to the Terms of Reference such as the Federal Government's bulk billing policies, limited availability of medical training places and local shortages in aged care, NDIS and private healthcare systems undoubtedly contribute to our GP shortage, the unwieldy and unresponsive DPA model and the decisions to exclude Pumicestone despite significant indicators of need are the most significant factor.

The Distribution Priority Area model is failing the people of Pumicestone, especially our elderly and most vulnerable.

Pumicestone is an outer metropolitan region with an extremely high representation of older people. Pumicestone incorporates part of the outer-suburban hub of Caboolture, the coastal township of Beachmere, smaller villages of Godwin Beach, Toorbul and Donnybrook, fast-densifying rural areas such as Elimbah and Meldale, and the Bribie Island, Ningi and Sandstone Point communities, which are relatively suburban but significantly geographically isolated.

With a high proportion of recently arrived retirees, many Pumicestone residents are dislocated from their support and medical care networks at a time of their lives when consistent primary care becomes increasingly important.

The emphasis of the Distribution Priority Area model on geographic proximity to metropolitan centres does not take into account the reality that Pumicestone residents find it very much harder to access GP services in a timely way than people who may live even 30km closer to Brisbane, and that distance alone is not a pure measure of geographic isolation.



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Below-average incomes, limited public transport options, a high proportion of elderly residents who can no longer drive and the location of multiple Pumicestone communities as the final destination on regional connector roads increases the isolation of Pumicestone residents far beyond the actual distances involved.

The current Distribution Priority Area model also fails to give consideration to the complex health needs and socio-economic factors that have placed an extreme strain on GP services in Pumicestone.

The needs of the Pumicestone community are starkly different to the inner metro areas that share the same Distribution Priority Area classification.

40% of Pumicestone residents are aged over 65, giving it the highest proportion of older residents of any state electorate in Queensland.

Pumicestone residents experience a high burden of ill health, with those in the Bribie-Beachmere regions of Pumicestone visiting their GPs 7.9 times a year, far more often than their inner city-metro counterparts¹.

Pumicestone residents have a very low median family income of \$61,256, compared to the Queensland median of \$86,372².

Caboolture, Bribie Island and Beachmere have a bulk billing rate nearly 10% above the national average at 93.2%¹.

Figures provided by the Brisbane North PHN in 2019 cited Caboolture's GP full-time rates at 68.8 per 100,000 residents and Bribie/Beachmere's at 74.6 per 100,000. This is significantly lower than the Queensland average of 102.9 full time GPs per 100,000³.

When the District Workforce Shortage model was changed in 2019 to the Distribution Priority Area (DPA), some Pumicestone communities were stripped of their priority access to internationally trained General Practitioners and rurally bonded trainees. Where practices already had internationally trained GPs employed they could retain them, but if they left the practice the place was lost.

Since those changes were made in 2019, GP practices report increasing difficulty in replacing doctors lost due to natural attrition. Several practices have told me that their business model is dependent on being able to recruit overseas trained or otherwise bonded GPs to the area based on pre—2019 Distribution Priority Area/District Workforce Shortage priority area status.

Dr. Steve Kearney from Ningi Doctors shared the struggles he faces to maintain after hours GP care and recruit and train GPs since losing federal support.

"We committed to providing a challenging extended hours capability to the surrounding community. Yet ongoing meaningful recruitment support was removed by the federal government a few years later and now we are struggling."

Dr Kearney's practice is the only extended hours clinic in Bribie and surrounds, and he says that without a change in policy he may have to wind back.

For the full response from Steve Kearney refer to **Appendix 1**.

Practice Principal at Goodwin Family Medical Practice, Dr Leo Blanco, contacted me in 2020 calling for the urgent review of Bribie Island to be reclassified as a Distribution Priority Area. Dr Blanco cited the decline in doctor numbers, increasing population and visitor numbers as

reasons for Bribie's doctor shortage. He described this stress as "very frustrating for patients and impact[ing] severely on Doctor and staff workload and stress levels."

In July 2021, the popular Medical Centre @ Pumicestone Village, Caboolture, was forced to close after a two-year search for permanent clinicians to replace General Practitioners who had moved on proved fruitless. This meant that 1,000 patients, many with complex needs, were cut loose to find other GPs in an already crowded market. Many of those residents report having to travel to other parts of Moreton Bay and North Brisbane to obtain care. Others told me they never found a replacement GP and instead go to Caboolture Hospital ED when they get very sick.

Once established in Northern Moreton Bay, doctors generally choose to continue their links in our community and stay for the long term. But without the initial incentive to settle here provided by Distribution Priority Area status, our area struggles to compete with inner metro areas where patient cohorts have less complex health and social issues and more ability to contribute to gap payments.

Since we lost priority status in 2019, the feedback I receive from medical practices is that many doctors have passed up the opportunity to live and work in our beautiful area.

Since before I was elected in October 2020, Pumicestone residents have told me of their distress at wait times of up to four weeks to see their GP, of not being able to get onto the books of local GP practices, and of having to travel long distances for basic primary care, sometimes multiple times per week.

Anecdotally, residents and health care workers report that people unable to access a timely GP appointment have no choice but to present at their closest Emergency Department, contributing to increased Emergency Department wait times and presentations for sub-acute conditions.

At the date of this submission, 1,176 people have signed my petition calling on Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt to reclassify the Pumicestone electorate as a Distribution Priority Area.

Many residents provided comments about their experiences.

Typical responses included:

"I find it harder and harder to get an appointment with a doctor on the island, waiting for 4 weeks to get a phone consultation, this is unacceptable, please help our ageing population." - Imelda

"I'm a receptionist at a medical centre on Bribie and have never been more afraid to go to my job. It's constant abuse of patients that just can't get in to see a GP. I get asked Why?" - Elissa

"We moved to Bribie Island almost a year ago and can't get into any local GP. This means we need to travel back to our previous GP which is about 75 mins each way and about 120 K return. Please fix this as it is not sustainable." - Elisabeth

Appendix 2 shows de-identified comments from Pumicestone locals who signed my petition. Should the Committee wish for more information in relation to any individual comments, please contact me and I will request the permission of the original commenters to release their names and contact details to the Committee.

Lack of timely primary care delivery has placed an undue burden on our Queensland public health services in increased Emergency Department wait times, patients

presenting later with increased acuity and locals reporting seeking care at hospital ED because they cannot find suitable primary care.

It is not surprising that Emergency Department presentations at Caboolture have risen from 34,917 in 2019-2020 to 38,115 in 2020-21 alone⁴.

In a letter to the Hon. Greg Hunt, Federal Minister for Health, I requested the urgent reclassification of Pumicestone as a Distribution Priority Area. Minister Hunt's Chief of Staff's response (**Appendix 3**) indicated that "The DPA system compares GP services received by the population of a GP catchment area against a benchmark level ... the catchment of Caboolture is between five and 10 percent above the benchmark and the catchment of Bribie-Beachmere is less than 10 per cent above the benchmark."

This response is in stark contrast to correspondence from the Hon. Dr David Gillespie, Federal Minister for Regional Health who admitted, "as well intentioned as the DPA classification system is, I am concerned that it is not sufficiently contemporaneous or agile in responding to the current GP services needs of some communities." A complete copy of that letter is attached under **Appendix 4**.

I am deeply concerned by the profound lack of transparency around these benchmarks for Distribution Priority Area status. If low incomes, high levels of ill health, functionally isolated communities and the most elderly population in Queensland does not justify the grant of Distribution Priority Area status, what will?

In 2021 the Federal Government reviewed Distribution Priority Area status areas and 21 Queensland catchments were added to the program. Pumicestone was once again ignored.

I am hopeful that this submission will shed light on the inadequacies of the current Distribution Priority Area system in addressing the complex and significant primary health care needs of Pumicestone and outer suburban communities like it.

People in Pumicestone are experiencing a GP crisis. Their health and wellbeing is suffering. They deserve better.

Yours sincerely



Ali King MP
State Member for Pumicestone

References:

1. *2016 Census QuickStats: Pumicestone*. (2017, October 23). Australian Bureau of Statistics.
https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SED30068
2. Brisbane North PHN and Metro North Hospital and Health Service, 2017. *Health Needs Assessment*. From <https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/jointhealth-assessment.pdf>

3. Crockford, N. (2019). No end in sight for shortage of GPs in Caboolture, Bribie and Beachmere - in fact it could get worse. *Caboolture Shire Herald*. Retrieved from <https://www.couriermail.com.au/questnews/moreton/no-end-in-sight-for-shortage-of-gps-in-caboolture-bribie-and-beachmere-infact-it-could-get-worse/news-story/cebdae8594d29620b44209007d080f1e>
4. Data provided by Queensland Health in Committee Question on Notice from Oral Briefing 29 November 2021.

Appendix 1: Dr Steve Kearney from Ningi Doctors email correspondence.

From: Stephen Kearney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 21 June 2021 2:12 PM
To: Pumicestone Electorate Office
Cc: McHugh, Emily (T. Young, MP)
Subject: General Practice Ningi/Bribie

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Ali

Dear Ali King MP,

I am one of the partners at Ningi Doctors and the primary recruiter for the practice. Thank you for asking us to comment the current situation of doctor recruitment.

There are a number of reasons why the Eastern region of the Pumicestone Electorate is failing and will continue to fail to provide sufficient local health care. I also expect the situation to worsen considerably in the near future.

- **Location.** Any practice located more than 20-30minutes from where doctors live will find it difficult to recruit. Due to workforce shortages, there is enough work available within a 30 minute commute from most places doctors tend to buy homes. Unfortunately, our area is not a desirable location for many doctors to take up residence. This has been recognised in the past and doctors were enticed by government policy to work in areas like Ningi, but this is no longer the case.

Our practice has worked on a policy of providing junior doctors a great training experience to build up our practice over time. I am the Supervisor Liaison Officer for General Practice Training Queensland (the body that currently trains junior doctors) and we do provide a high standard of training in Ningi. However due to government policy changes we struggle to recruit trainees to our location now.

- **Government Policy.** When we invested millions of dollars in 2015 setting up our practice, government rules were different. At that time we could apply to sponsor doctors from overseas and also recruit Australian trained doctors who were rurally bonded. As policy changed it not only stopped these recruitment streams but forced a popular UK trained doctor to leave our practice. (Personal opinion: it makes no sense that metropolitan hospitals are still able to recruit from overseas, but we can not.)

- **High Needs Community.** There are a number of patients with high health needs due to their age and low socioeconomic circumstances, living in the East Pumicestone area. Consequently, routine calculations of doctors to patient ratios are likely to be inadequate. By design Ningi Doctors is located centrally to the more rural elements of the Pumicestone electorate. However Ningi itself has been reclassified as non-rural while Bribie Island and Toorbul are classified as a "little rural" (Modified Monash 2). Regardless, the whole area has high medical needs and your only extended hours service is in Ningi and we have absolutely no recruiting support from the State or Federal Governments.

- **Growing Population.** The population continues to grow in Pumicestone while the number of doctors decreases. Government rurality boundaries move too slowly and do not appear to have any flexibility built in. To reverse this trend will require significant changes to government policy.

- **Future Government Direction (My personal opinion only).** In an effort to entice doctors to more rural areas and to reduce the cost of training GPs, it has been suggested that rural trainees have their training funded (as it is now) but non rural trainees become full fee paying. I am certain this will reduce the overall number of junior doctors choosing General Practice as a career. The reduced number who do choose General Practice will tend to go rural initially and then come back to fill the urban void caused by the poor policy a few years later. This will be a disaster for our area as we fit into neither category and will be competing for a smaller pool of doctors.

- **Ningi Doctors Situation.** I have spent scores of hours every year trying to recruit and train good quality doctors. Despite a high turnover of staff (largely due to our location) we have built up a good reputation and provide outstanding service to your community. We provide extended hours of practice (weekdays until 2100 and weekends 0800-1300) and see GP emergencies for the region regardless of the patient's usual practice. Sadly as time goes on you are at high risk of losing this service. The loss of just one doctor who contributes significantly to our extended hours service would overwhelm those remaining.

Appendix 2: More GPs For Pumicestone Petition Comments

First name	Last Initial	GP ACCESS COMMENTS
Laurence	R	Having to wait days to see a doctor is ridiculous when we live in an ageing location.
Laurence	R	We need more Doctors, having to wait days to get an appointment is ridiculous.
Kiani	B	I feel this is desperately needed. I am a mother of 3 young kids, it took 7 months to get a gp after moving here and now you have to know weeks in advance if you're going to be sick and need an appointment. As someone who suffers from vertigo on and off driving off the island to find care is not always an option
Cheryl	M	We definitely need more doctors. Some of our friends cannot get a GP on the Birdland.
James	G	Disgraceful situation with the lack of support for our area
Margaret	J	We have lived on Bribie for nearly a year and like other people's comment we have found it hard getting in to see a doctor's when you need one both my husband and I have ended up in hospital we need follow up appointment with our doctor can't get in so have to have phone appointment. We need better service lot's of older people here on Bribie
Gary & Gail	M	Bribie Island is desperate for more G.P's. The majority of people living on the Island are over 50. It is impossible to get in to see a local G. P.
Mellisa	B	We bought our forever home on Bribie Island. I have health issues as does my youngest son. Not one GP on the island will take on new patients and few bulk bill. Please, for the sake of my sanity, the safety of myself and my child, get this change happening! We're a family of six and have never had such difficulties anywhere else we've lived before... even Logan has it better!
Gary	M	When I needed a new doctor after my doctor of many years from the Pumicestone region retired I was told there were no vacancies for me, so I would have to look afar! Pretty poor when I have bladder cancer, a blood discrasia requiring haematologist care , a replacement mitral valve and emphysema requiring respiratory care.
Kathleen	D	I most definitely agree more GPS are needed. My GP retired suddenly and it was hard to find another one because most had closed their books. Bribie has one of the oldest residents in Queensland and we need good medical care. Caboolture Hospital is overloaded and waiting times for emergency and elective surgery are unacceptable.
Helen	P	Unable to find a Dr taking new patients!
Sharlotte	G	At the moment I have to drive to Brisbane to see a doctor
Nina	M	Very happy with my GP and Ningi medical, but understand many new arrivals here face much differently registering with GP, on and off the Island lots of practices have closed their books.

		Good on you Ali
		I saw an elderly lady who had her arm bleeding at a local surgery with her daughter and was told to go to Caboolture hub or Hospital
Heather	C	I was disgusted
Imelda	B	I find it harder and harder to get an appointment with a doctor on the island, waiting for 4 weeks to get a phone consultation, this is unacceptable, please help our ageing population.
Ray	G	Please help us with our doctor shortage.
Trevor	D	We are finding it very hard to get an appointment at the doctors on Bribie. We need more doctors or even a hospital here
Beverley	G	My GP is now the only remaining GP in the clinic. As I am into my 70s it worries me greatly that I would have to wait weeks for an appointment but cannot change as most GPs have closed their books. Some new GPs come for a short period and then leave so it is a revolving door I hear from friends. Bev
		Badly needed more GPs on Bribie.
Ian	H	Caboolture ED is over stressed because of the shortage.
John	G	More medical practitioners are required on Bribie Island
Karin	J	3 weeks to see my GP!
Johann	J	Waiting times for GPS are not acceptable!
Trevor	B	My doctor cannot get extra doctors for her busy practice. Appointments now can take ten days plus!
olwen	g	I have recently moved to sandstone point and had to drive to Beachmere to see a gp, waiting a week to do so.
Yolanta	A	I have recently had the experience of not being able to see a doctor on the island, had to go to Morayfield Hub!
Barbara	N	Please make us a priority.
Kerry	K	Please help the residents of Bribie and Sandstone Point. There is an urgent need for more GP's in Pumicestone electorate. Extremely difficult to obtain a doctors appointment when required as all the doctors seem to have too many patients and can't offer appointments.
Jennifer	H	I recently needed to register with a GP on the Island, however all clinics I tried were not taking any new patients. Eventually I was fortunate to register with a new GP, lucky I didn't need any care whilst trying to find a GP or I would have needed to attend a hospital.
Carla	W	Local care is shocking vs NSW. People have to compete for basic care and regular follow ups. A bit hard during pregnancy when you cannot afford private. 3-4 weeks to get into a simple whooping cough vaccine via a GP and a nurse at the same time
Marie	T	We need availability to access a GP on weekends without having to drive to Caboolture.

Leslie	J	Dear sir, I have had major issues getting into a gp on Bribie and Ningi. Because we hadn't seen our usual gp for over 12 months and we were away, they advise we are now new patients??
Gina	H	We have doctors that will not take on new patients
Craig	W	Moved to the area in November with our 2 young kids. There is only one doctor in the whole area taking on new patients. What a joke
Christine	C	Newly moved here and didn't realise there are few clinics on the Island taking new patients. I have mental health problems that need managing but can't connect with a doctor interested in this field here
Robert	S	Cannot find GP for new patients
Savita	N	Please solve the problem for shortage of GPs in Bribie Island for new patients.
Umberto	T	I would like more choice when deciding which doctor could best meet my needs.
Alana	S	We shouldn't need to drive 30 mins to attend a GP
Barbara	C	Definitely not enough General Practitioners to service our area. People are being turned away.
Linda	W	We need better medical services on Bribie now not in years
James	M	The strain of managing our current elderly and aging patient load is taking its toll on staff. We have to turn away 10 new patients from our practice every day. We have space for another GP but have not been able to recruit one. Please help us care for local residents.
Peter	T	No joke Our family have changed doctors 3 times trying find somewhere to get appointments in a reasonable time. 2-3 weeks is the answer when we call or go to Caboolture hospital if its urgent.
Melita	B	People are making weekly appointments just in case that a family member may be sick.
peta	C	We need more drs!!
Lynda	C	desperately need more GPs and NPs in Beachmere and surrounding. NO ONE can take new patients and the community deserves better
Wendy	B	My doctor is in his 70s. He can't retire because he is badly needed on Bribie.
Olivia	M	My GP works on her own since 2 parttime Drs left. She cannot find suitable replacements. She has been trying for about 2 years. The government caps on numbers is a farce in our area.
Amanda	L	Some more GPs at Ningi/Sandstone or on the island that offer bulk billing would be a life saver!
Leonie	W	We also need more full time and permanent GP's. I have had to change GP a few times as they come here for a training period then move on. They don't tell you upfront. Or they only work a few days a week.
		As a nurse that lives locally I have seen the need for more Medical Practicers. We are a hugely growing and many

		residents have to wait weeks to see a doctor. We need bulk billing Drs.
Brydie	T	live in the area, don't have a doctor
		<p>Bringing more families on to Bribie with the new housing developments and the lack of hospital and Gp care is astonishing!</p> <p>Having emigrated from London to Australia I would say this is the major failure living on the island especially with children and the elderly, I have to travel to Morayfield hub with a 4 year old when they are sick and now pregnant with a baby and all my midwife appointments are off the island and have to wait at least 45 minutes over my allocated appointment time every time!</p> <p>So frustrating when time is tight within school drop off and pick ups! Massive worry if ever my child would need medical assistance!</p> <p>In 2021 this should no longer be an issue in a developed country!</p>
Emily	W	
Lurlene	W	Bribie Island desperately needs more GPS.
		Your govt needs to get us back on the list of Priority Areas asap. There are a lot of voters up here, with good memories!
Kim	A	
Cathy	M	In their declining years the aging population on Bribie need Doctors. This is a disgrace
Diane	M	In desperate need of GPs around Bribie.
Lyn	R	Certainly needs addressing urgently.
		We need more doctors everywhere. This is becoming a crisis when people are asked to wait days until an available appointment. Telling them to go to hospital emergency when a Local doctor is all that is needed is not the answer.
Debra	C	
Paul	L	Definitely needed now.
		The waiting time to see your own GP is ridiculous. I 1/2 week wait when wound meant to be dressed every second day just one example. Can't go to different GP because none taking new clients. Satellite Hospital priority please.
Barbara	R	
helen	s	omg please whatever it takes, i have so many stories to tell.
Wendy	B	Getting to see a doctor in the day you wish is impossible and weekends there is no doctors
		We definitely need more GP's and child health services. I am absolutely disgusted at the lack of child health/allied health services up here.
Rebecca	H	
Chris	M	Desperately need more bulk billing GPs on Bribie
Yvonne	W	Bribie had an aging population. This lack of GPs in the area is quite scary. Yvonne
		Our hospitals are overrun with patients with minor complaints because you can't get an appt with a GP. No one wants to be sick but when it happens you don't want to be sitting in a waiting room for several hours just to be told
Lynelle	U	

		the doctor is going home and will have to come back the next day which happened at our local GP practice.
Nick	K	Desperately needed in the Pumicestone area.
Lucy	D	We need more doctors! This is Australia for goodness sake!
Brian	S	Yes Please. We need more GP's on Bribie Island
Janelle	H	We need more Doctors on our Island due to our aging demographics
Jenny	H	Bongaree needs access to more GP
Jarrold	G	We haven't been able to get into our GP for weeks
Susan	H	It is a great concern that a GP is not available when you need to see one. My doctor left the practice I was registered at so when I needed a doctor I had great difficulty in getting to see one.
Noelene	M	Getting to see your GP on Bribie is impossible and needs to be fixed Urgently...
Robyn	W	Beachmere is increasing in population and needs more GP access for its residents. Many of the newer residents are retired or have young children so access to GPs within Beachmere is essential.
Heather	C	Certainly need more.
Karin	S	More GPS needed as well as a hospital
Steve	L	Need more doctors in pumicestone
Elissa	G	I'm a receptionist at a medical centre on Bribie and have never been more afraid to go to my job. It's constant abuse of patients that just can't get in to see a GP. I get asked Why???????
Leanne	S	More doctors are needed in the area. Waiting weeks to see a doctor should not happen anywhere in Australia.
Kate	D	Please we NEED more doctors on Bribie I have two disabled children and can't get a local doctor to see us Been here for 6 years. But been a local on and off for over 25years Please help us locals and give us more doctors
Monica	G	I work as a receptionist at Pebble Beach Medical Centre and the situation is critical. We are turning away on average 10 new patients per day
Joanna	H	We desperately need more GPs and nurse stations to do some of the day to day stuff.
Peter	L	Having come from country nsw I know just how difficult it is with a gp shortage. Not yet as bad on Bribie but getting that way
Noelene	M	It's disgraceful the lack of full time GP's on Bribie Island
Kerry	W	It is getting so very hard to get an appointment with my GP clinic. 1 week at least. No wonder the hospital emergency department are in overload.
Charles	S	Might want to consider that your voters are suffering.

Danni	G	We need more Dr's!
Andrew	P	Unbelievable we are in this position. I hear regularly people unable to find a doctor
Sue	W	Had huge difficulty getting into a doctor when moving to the area 6 mths ago and still difficult getting appointments when needed
Laura	S	I moved to Bongaree 2 months ago from the Gold Coast, have health problems & unable to find a Doctor who can see new patients. Due to health issues I can't Waite weeks to see a Doctor. Having Private health makes no difference! Its not acceptable for all who live here.
Peter	S	My GP is in Benowa, Gold Coast. I have recently moved to Bribie Island from Gold Coast. Shocking that I have to travel to Benowa as unable to see a Doctor on Bribie Island. I have health issues, private health, & moved to an area to find out that there is a huge problem trying to find a Doctor.
Leesa	P	Having to drive my elderly mother over 30 minutes away to see a doctor when she is unwell is not good enough. Bribie Island needs more doctors NOW
Diane	W	I have been on the island for over 18 months and cannot get on any surgery lists. I go to Morayfield hub for my needs staying on the island with a local GP is more convenient as we grow older. Thank you
Barbara	G	It's impossible to consult with a GP in less than 10 days. Sometimes it's weeks & will only become more difficult now that the clinic I attend no longer bulk bills unless you're under 16 yo or a pensioner.
Gary & Gail	M	Can't help wondering if you Mr Hunt, lived here, or your elderly parents, we'd soon have sufficient doctors on the Island.
Linda	W	There should be more doctors so that you don't have to wait for weeks to see a doctor or have to go to the hospital and clog the system up
Julie	M	This is shameful! Redcliffe is very close and we have no trouble getting in to see a GP.
Amanda	S	Living with multiple chronic illness is hard enough but even harder when you have to wait 4 weeks to see a dr because there just aren't enough drs I the area
Robby	M	Local doctors are advising they are not accepting new patients. We need more in our area. There is a big campaign to not use Hospital Emergency for non emergencies but if there are no doctors what can you expect.
Margaret	W	need more doctors
EILEEN	K	So hard to wait a month for an appointment with your GP if you are really sick you then have to drive to Caboolture or Morayfield for doc appt on that day. Not good enough.
Lynda	W	We need more GPs we should not have to wait and that is if your are lucky to have GP on the island. Most of well actually I think all are not taking on new clients ts yet our population is growing. Don't wait till a Tragedy occurs we need more GPs now!!!

Gavin	P	We need more local GP's on Bribie
Lane	N	Desperately need doctors on Bribie.
vivienne	J	At my age and with my bad health it's a real concern for me and my husband
Gavin	B	It can take a few days for me to see a doctor for an appointment. I need action that day for my work to believe me that I'm really sick
Gail	M	had issues when initially moving to the island.
Deborah	J	Recently moved to the island. All the info she has heard from neighbours is it is very difficult to get into a GP on the island.
Elizabeth	M	We badly need more doctors in our area.
Pauline	W	As a patient with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) I need to see a GP when I am unwell not in 3 weeks time when an appointment is available with my GP. You see another GP in the practice and have to re-explain your condition to someone not experienced in CKD, and does not understand your issues.
Raie	S	The GPs on Bribie are so busy they suggest you go to the hospital if you require urgent attention. Caboolture hospital emergency is also very busy
Bruce	M	Terry Young has gone mute on the issue.
Elizabeth	P	We have lived on Bribie Island for 6 years and my husband still has to drive to Cleveland for his doctor's appointments
Robert	R	I am disappointed in Bribie Island Clinics contracting doctors who only stay for well under 12 months, leaving the patients without a regular physician. The Government or AMA need to introduce longer contract periods by these Clinics on their contracted Doctors, to improve the health services being offered. Increase the number of Bulk Billing the Government place on individual doctors.
Tina	D	Bribie has an ageing population and access to health services is paramount. You have to go to Caboolture if you need to see a doctor urgently. Unacceptable.
Melanie	C	This has been an issue for sometime now. I'm sick of having to go to Morayfield to see a Doctor who doesn't really know me but I have no choice sometimes when I am really ill and need scripts as it takes ages to book into my normal GP.
Sandrs	A	Must get this passed. We need it to decide our future ourselves. Not by others.
Nicole	I	Children specific doctors and services need on the island and close by. No one taking new patients. Have to travel to morayfield or north lakes for support
Judy	R	please give Bribie and surrounding areas more access to GP's
Ernest	S	Out of sight out of mind! And this region is high density retired, with up to 12 ambulances a night!!

		<p>We need more doctors at Bribie ASAP</p> <p>it's absolutely ridiculous trying to get a appointment here.</p> <p>I have two autistic children, they get sick and it's weeks and weeks before a local doctor to see them.</p>
Kate	D	This is completely unacceptable
Judith	R	I have cancer, and sometimes can't wait weeks for an appointment, so instead have to present to the hospital
Darryl	W	Can take 3 weeks to get a GP appointment and if attending a new practice they regularly have a freeze on accepting new patients.
Wendy	S	We deserve better medical care.
Rozlynn	B	Need to do something about the hospital
Gary	M	<p>After my previous doctor on the island retired, I have been unable to get appointments with the doctors that are left. I now have to travel 50 km to see my new doctor.</p> <p>Unacceptable if you are chronically ill, which I have recently been.</p>
Carol	S	We need more doctors
gary	g	Takes almost a week to see a Dr on Bribie island, sometimes longer
Chris	N	Our region is third world with respect to health services
Jan	R	Appointments can take up to 6 weeks and there is constant GP turnover. Please make it more of an attractive proposition for GP's to stay on Bribie Island where we have a large percentage of older Australians.
Howard	C	I've heard from a local who couldn't get in to a GP. Not good enough.
Dorelle	M	More GP's are urgently needed on Bribie Island
Jenny	O	We also need palliative care for all those likely to need them.
Brianna	G	Please fix this issue I am at my wits end trying to drive my baby 45mins to an hour away just so she can be seen by a doctors within a two week wait.
Lynette	Z	We need more drs and a hospital on Bribie Island
Bruce	M	Tried to see my Doctor and had to wait two and a half weeks. This is no good when you are sick as you end up at Caboolture hospital waiting to see someone.
Dianne	B	This needs urgent attention. GPs in our area are overloaded or not taking new patients which has implications for time it takes to get an appointment and travel to find a GP at all.
Lea	B	Signed the petition over the phone. Initially had issues getting on the books so had to resort to getting on the books at the GP at Beachmere. Likes the GP
Jennifer	W	Delays of 2 to 3 days to see your GP are unacceptable especially in a community that is older suffering many chronic illnesses.
Heslam	M	We live in the lucky country, It's time to prove it .

Kerry	H	Having to wait weeks to get into a GP - even if you are an existing client - is dangerous and distressing.
Norma	F	We have to wait 3 to 4 weeks for an appointment with our GP
Norma	F	It is a 3or 4 weeks wait to see our GP and there is no after hours service. This puts undue pressure on A & E Depts.
Shane	R	We need more Gps on Bribie Island
Monica	C	We need Good GPS here on Bribie that we can get into see the same day we are sick with in the hour
Dean	C	I agree with penny, it is just so wrong. My mother is 90 and had to endure a 6hour and 30minute wait at emergency, why because it was weeks before an appointment at doctors could be made. Dean
Lesley	D	This requires urgent action. The wait time to see a doctor is ridiculous.
Lesley	D	The waiting time to see a doctor here is ridiculous. Please consider the situation if it is an emergency.
Roger	B	We have lived on Bribie Island over 5 years and it is still difficult to have a GP that will attend in a timely manner.
Lynnette	P	Usually takes over a week to see my GP. They did the right thing establishing Tele-health visits but now they want to stop those as well.
Trish	G	We also need more in Beachmere and lady doctors with Bulk Bill .
Gary & Gail	M	We are desperate for more doctors. We have a majority of over 50s residents on Bribie, some of whom have to travel too many kilometres off the Island to see a doctor. Disgraceful.
helen	s	Something needs to be done, more people are moving to Bribie than ever before. Situation is fast becoming critical.
Donald	W	We desperately need more GPs in our area.
suzanne	p	We need more doctors and more hospital beds
Leo & Veronica	B	Medical shame - Bribie Island Two weeks wait for appointment. Regardless of condition. Caboolture hospital overflows. HELP!
Emil	P	During a pandemic these services should not be out of reach and the incompetence of this limp-wristed government
Doug	G	need more GP's
Michael	R	Totally agree
Allison	L	Allison Lutton
Kay	M	Definitely need more GPs on Bribie Island and Sandstone Point.

richard	s	HOSPITAL AND MORE AMBOS NEEDED..
		Please, up to- date fully equipped
Carylo.k	S	Medical center, doctors and bulk billing. Is so needed on Bribie.
Julie	T	I am a person that has multiple health issues since a motorbike accident and in chronic pain, it is a real worry for me
Anthony	B	This needs to be addressed in all communities.
Carolyn	E	Pls give us more doctors. We need them desperately.
Darlene	R	Totally agree, we are desperate for more GPs.
Mitra	K	We need more medical services, GP and hospital on the island.
Rowena	J	Maybe United medical centre, Central Lakes to be open Saturdays.
Beverley	G	There is no consideration given to the median age of Bribie residents - we have one of the oldest populations in Queensland.
Vicki	W	If you ring today because you are sick, you should not have to wait 1 to 2 weeks to see a doctor
Gayle	A	Health is a basic human right.
Catriona	M	I have an 80-year-old friend who routinely has to wait over a week for an urgent GP appointment. I also work in the Emergency department of Caboolture Hospital and frequently have patients tell me they are only at the hospital because they could not access a GP appointment in time. Please look at strategies to increase availability of affordable primary care in our region. Thank you.
Annemarie	C	And we need vets as well please
Joan	B	We need a few Doctors where we can get same day appointments. There is the hub in Caboolture but not all people can drive to get there
Keith	V	Public health at risk
shanell	p	Just moved to the area and finding a doctor was hard
Andrea	C	As a family of four, both parents working full time and kids at school booking GP appointment means a three to four week wait. If you are ill you would be lucky to be able to see a GP. More GP's would help enormously!
Patricia	H	More GPs are definitely needed on the island. And when will the hospital begin being constructed on the island. More services are urgently needed!
Richard	O	Bribie is a thriving community and deserves excellent services.
Alistair	G	40% of the population of Bribie Island is over 65 and so the need for good GP services significant. We arrived on Bribie Island 6 months ago and have not been able to get a GP on the Island. We are considering moving back to Sydney as the health services in the area are so back.
cheryl	h	glad you are doing something to fix this crisis. I am a carer for 89 year old gentleman who has a lot of things wrong with him and has to wait 3 to 4 weeks to see his doctor

Debbie	C	Desperate need for more doctors sometimes i have to wait two weeks to get in to see mine
		It's horrendous when you can't get your really sick child a doctors appointment
Lisa	W	Shame on those refusing to take on more patients
		2 to 3 weeks wait to see my GP after being a resident on Bribie Island for 41 years. Our GP'S are overworked and overwhelmed. Where is the hospital we were promised? At least give us more GP'S.
Karren	L	
		Last Thursday I tried to get my son an appointment. Absolutely no luck unless we travelled 35mins to Lawton to see a dr. So now he has to get up & be at walk-in Dr at 7am tomorrow to get prescriptions. Due to the fact our clinic only has 1 Dr now & can't get a replacement. Deplorable situation. Lack of Drs is it because of no new Drs coming into Australia because of Covid or non trained Aussie Drs. Or huge population increase in Moreton area.
Margaret	H	
		My Mummy has done this on my behalf as I am 15 months old and my parents find it really hard to get me into doctors appointments which are vital for my health and development.
Rebecca	H	
Jacqui	J	We need more doctors elderly population and growing population
Brian	C	Keep up the good work!
		Disgusting in 2021 that we don't have enough doctors and vulnerable people have to travel for health care, how long before it's fatal.
Tania	H	
		Absolutely. For those that need health care, timely intervention can make the difference between a positive health outcome and costly hospital (government) and personal (family) expenditure - fiscal and financial. Primary vs tertiary care is more cost effective for the health care system..
Chris	S	
Mark	P	I still have to drive to see my Brisbane GP.
Kevin	H	Urgently needed.
		It's an absolute crisis and disgrace! Unacceptable in 2021 not to have reasonable GP coverage. Let's get this fixed asap!
Frank	L	
		Last time I was sick I had to book in with a doctor I didn't know and didn't understand my background. Finally got to see my regular doctor 10 days later. This is frightening.
Angela	M	
		Doctors are a necessity, and a couple of bulk billing doctors would be a wonderful addition to Bribie Island environs.
Anna-Maria	R	
		Local doctors cannot cope with the demand, this is an island of aged persons, but many families as well with people requiring urgent need to see a doctor , not a ten day wait
Greg	A	You can get a car serviced quicker

Kerrie	C	Need bulk billing GPs. Can wait over an hour to get in for your appointment. Given the age and need on the island this needs urgent attention
Paula	A	There is times my children are sick and can't be seen for days. Its getting ridiculous
Michelle	W	We also need GPs that have Indigenous Cultural Competency
Angela	K	I was 12 months overdue for a pap smear and had unusual vaginal bleeding for 8 months yet not one local doctor would see me as they are not taking new patients. I had to travel an hour round trip to finally see someone after 12 months of calling and asking to see a doctor on Bribie. I have been a Bribie resident for 28 years.
Sandra	C	Yes good doctors would be great here
Wendy	T	We really need more GPS.
Desiree	B	I had to go to North Lakes to find a doctor as no doctor on Bribie was taking new patients. This is after living on Bribie for 3 years.
John	H	We need our satellite hospital NOW
Cecilia	W	Reclassify Pumicestone to reflect the demographics where there's a much higher number of older people with complex care needs
Brendan	K	Aging population. Many disabilities. Discrimination by the LNP government.
Roslyn	R	My GP recently left the Pumicestone Village medical practice and now Medicare won't allow a replacement. Remaining GP in the practice isn't taking on new patients. Now I have to travel the the Morayfield Medical Hub where you can wait up to 2 weeks for an appointment. I'm in a wheelchair, so it's a difficult situation. Then they wonder why ramping if Ambulances is so prolific. It's just a joke!
Shirley	T	With such a large number of older residents on Bribie we desperately need more GPS, it is sad that so many GPS have felt the need to close their books. They are overwhelmed by the number of patients - and new homes are still being built, which means even more patients.
Harry	R	We urgently need more doctors as it is not possible to become a new patient at any of the clinics I've tried on Bribie island
Barry	C	We need doctors now and most importantly we need a 24hr medical clinic. Bribie Island main population is over 60 and have more medical requirements than other centres so a 24/7 medical centre would take the load off the GP's and Ambulance service.
Peter	H	We desperately need more GPs.
Alex	P	Bribie island is suppose to have the oldest community in Australia, and GPs of closed there books, it is ridiculous do something about it.
Lance	M	We need more doctors on Bribie Island

Carol	G	More Doctors are needed on Bribie Island
Darren	S	More GPs please. Let's reduce our wait, our stress and the time to see them
Florence	M	All for more G.P for Bribie Island. Some Drs are over worked and tired.
Rhonda	M	<p>The G.P. Situation on Bribie is at concerning, particularly given the influx of new residents and during the holiday season.</p> <p>Bribie satellite hospital is desperately needed and must be a priority on the Government's agenda.</p> <p>My unequivocal support for The Premier and Chief Medical Officer and their handling of the Pandemic Crisis. Regards Rhonda</p>
Geraldine	M	We have one, if not the, oldest populations in Queensland. This means more GP appointments than in any other area. Why are we being denied access to vital services?
Mark	P	The delays are unacceptable, particularly if you need prompt treatment.
Elizabeth	S	I suffer fragile bone disorder am 58yrs old and traveling to far to caboolture when broken is like am being murdered slowly we need this so bad it is not to be pushed aside so many car accidents on the bridge we need this now so many have died on the way to caboolture hospital please can we start to save lives now .fix our GP crisis now regards smileys bribie island
Margaret	G	When we came to Bribie in 2005, it was impossible to see a doctor. We continued to visit our doctor on the Gold Coast. Then we discovered a night service next to Caboolture hospital so started going there. When Pebble Beach clinic opened, we registered immediately. In the recent past, The island doctors were advertising their services. BUT, no longer. We urgently need more doctors to cope with the growing population
Terry	F	So many of our GPs left the island in 2019 and 2020. Most of the Medical Practices on Bribie Island are running on 1 or 2 doctors where previously they had up to 6 doctors. Finding a GP who ca become your family doctor is almost impossible. This is an older population and new families with young children are going into this area. The Federal Government needs restore our priority rating. The Health System is a mess but not having a GP makes it dangerous.
Tracey	G	Bribie Island needs more doctors. It has long waiting times to see a GP and some doctors are not taking new patients.
Andrew	E	More Doctors
Heather	C	Doctors on Bribie turning away new patients
Julia	H	<p>I have witnessed this myself</p> <p>Please make Pumicestone a GP priority area. The current situation with regard to the shortage of GPs on the Island is untenable. Thank you.</p>

Maureen	B	We have retired and moved to Bribie. Life here is all we could have hoped for, except for the chronic shortage of GPS. We have kept our old GP at Ferny Grove, but as both of us have heart conditions, wonder if the time will come when we need medical support, but the island GPS are still not accepting new patients. Given the age of the local population, more GPS should be a necessity, not a privilege!
Sonya	H	I have lived in this area for over 30 years and have seen this area boom with the population however doctors and medical services have not kept up with the explosion. We are in desperate need for medical infrastructure in our Pumistone community
Kevin	W	Definitely need more GPs
Steven	M	Would love more doctors in our area
Anthony	W	Bribie is desperately needing extra doctors each week gets harder to see a doctor Anthony
Laine	F	need some bulk billing.
Verna	C	Waiting times too long, Definately need more doctors.
Peter	C	more doctors
Peter	C	We need more doctors now
Frederick	P	Greg Hunt, Fix Our GP Crisis, or you are gone, next Election!
Carol	D	We need more doctors. The wait time isn't good enough
Ashleigh	T	I don't even bother contacting local GP anymore. More than once my young children (1 and 3 years old) have need medical attention and the response is either no appointments or won't see them because they're not taking new patients.
Helen	P	Bribie Island has a senior population who need more medical assistance than younger people. We need more GPs.
Penelope	G	Please more doctors on Bribie Island as most surgeries have closed their books.
Pamela	O	Bribie badly needs good Doctors. We still travel to Buderim to see our Doctor.
Cheryl	G	At least 2 weeks wait at our Gp.
Jean-Claude	S	Totally agree with neglect from feds
Darrell	B	Not enough out of hours access
Stephen	W	As a new resident of 12mths to Bribie Island. It took me ages to find a doctor, as each practice i phoned told me the same story...we are not taking any new patients. And i was advised back then that i need to sigh a petition regards needing more GP's. I finally found a practice but 12mths later my Dr left. So back on the same merry go round and still got the same response. that is my experience....NOT GOOD ENOUGH!!!

Stephen	W	Same problem as my wife....we need more GP's on Bribie Island.
Diane	O	We need a 24 hour clinic and adjacent pharmacy.
Janine	B	I have been having a lot of difficulty getting appointments with my GP when I am sick and have on occasions had to travel to Caboolture. This is not good enough. It is dangerous to be driving so far when you're not feeling well.
Joan	B	I recently moved to Bribie Island and cannot believe; A) that it is so hard to find a GP who will take new patients; B) that waiting lists stretch into not hours, not days, but weeks; and C) there is no emergency doctor service either! I'm sorry I didn't investigate this before choosing to live here. I just assumed there would be adequate medical services. Lovely place but sadly lacking medical facilities, especially given the demographic. Not a happy new resident :(
jean	b	3 weeks wait to see my doctor.
Mellissa	C	We have lived on bribie Island for 9 months now and still are unable to get into any doctors on the island as they are ever taking new patients we have to drive 40 mins back to our regular GP which is not ideal especially when i need to just get my scripts
Robert	R	Our GP moved away 2 years ago and my wife has multiple serious issues that when flare need attention and can't wait 3 weeks. We have taken to going to our previous GP, who can see same day or next out at Toowoomba.
Naomi	D	It was a month before I could get an appointment to see my Gp. Not acceptable
Kevin	P	How hard can this be? Oh. Wait. Vaccine rollout...
Lynda	W	We need more GPs now it's ridiculous you can't get a GP in the area where you live not to mention putting peoples lives at risk
Danni	G	FIX OUR GP CRISIS - MAKE Bribie, Beachmere, Caboolture and surrounds as Distribution Priority Areas.
richard	s	More competent Drs too...
Angela	B	I'm consistently seeing posts by people who are unable to get into a Dr! We need more Drs!
Jeremy	L	Way to hard to get into a doctor when you need it.
Sonya	R	very stressful this need to be fixed ASAP there are a lot of elderly residents here and another doctors surgery has just closed here in Beachmere (county doctors) with no notification or explanation ?

David	S	Need GPs in Beachmere as I was booked in for my flu shot and then the doctors closed and Yeah I got a flu that lasted four weeks . Greg Hunt pull your head out of where the sun doesn't shine and fix the problem your mates made
Felicity	S	I was working at a GP clinic but lost my job as the business closed since they couldn't get any more doctors to join the only 1 we had. I'm also a full time uni student who needs a job since uni supplies are not cheap
Jennifer	T	This is a very real problem for our community.
Arleen	S	I would like to have access to a local GP where I can get regular access to the same GP and not have to rely on going to the Morayfield hub which is often booked for weeks and I often have to see a range of different doctors there when I need an appointment.
Judith	R	I have to wait weeks, to get a gp appointment, I have cancer and sometimes need an appointment quickly, I don't want to have to present to the emergency department
Desley	H	More doctors needed here.
Dan	C	Minister Hunt with the ageing population in our Community & young families moving here we need more GPs ASAP.
Danny	S	The community with oldest average age in Australia needs more doctors.
Sharon	M	Yes very hard to get a doctor on bribe but I think there should be more bulk billed for people as things are getting hard with what's going on
Elaine	L	My dr has closed her doors I'm in the middle of having surgery and going through chemo which is stressful enough.. I need my own dr. for check ups and general well being The drs are all full and not taking new patients so where does that leave me.
Janet	D	The poor dont matter!! This has been proven time and time again I have several complex medical conditions,I find a good doctor and they move, Cant get appts for up to 5 weeks - sorry Im unwell now dont know if I will still be in 5 wks
Siana	W	I have to know I'm sick 2 weeks in advance to get a doctors appointment. NOT GOOD ENOUGH
Toni	L	We need a Doc at Pumicestone centre!
Carolyn	S	This area is a very largely a retiree favourite, which requires regular monitoring of their health. I as a person living with a disability need to be able to access close medical care when needed. Please make this a priority
Sinisa	G	What was the criteria to deny area with majority of people over sixty a basic human right to healthcare? How many voting constituents had been informed and consulted and had agreed to this decision before being denied basic democratic process?
Alan	C	Regardless of age most of us still have long memories! I have had to wait up to five weeks to see my doctor this year not acceptable. I have to drive to morayfield hub. If I need urgent treatment.

		I work in a medical practice in reception and we turn away more than ten people a day it's very upsetting
Helen	C	Something definitely needs to be done
Petamarie	M	I've moved here from rural Victoria and we had GP issues down there but its nothing compared to what we have here. What's happening here is ridiculous
Richard	E	I do agree we need more doctors on the island
Carryl	I	I've just moved here, very difficult to find a GP. have an appointment that is 4 weeks from now ?
Brian	G	Right now I travel from Bribie to Caloundra for GP, at Bribie gp no room for new patients
Peter	R	GP shortage is past being critical it life threatening for aged or injured here on Bribie
		I have lived here over 3 years and have to go to Caboolture with a 2 week wait to see a lady doctor or the Morayfield medical Hub if I need a doctor for respiratory. Same for my children. Friends go off the island to Ningi doctors.
Karyn	B	Doctors are not taking new bookings.
Karleen	S	Bribie Island could do with as many medical centres as possible, as we enter an increasing ageing population.
Thomas	M	Very very hard to find local GPs in this area as they are so busy they are closeting their books to new patients, but more people are moving to this area and need to find a doctor.. Thomas Marton
Karen	W	I cannot always get to see a GP when I need.
Eric	W	The demographic of our area is probably one of the oldest. The requirement for GPs to service this area could not be more important to our older residents.
Delia	L	I have heard similar stories from people who have recently moved here. Most of the GPs have closed their books for new patients.
Terry	P	Live on Bribie, couldn't get an appointment in a reasonable time, was able to get one in Caboolture, but now told there is a 3-4 week wait time
Jess	E	Absolutely need more bulk billing GPs ??
Peter	R	My GP has closed his books. There are new people settling in Bribie Island every week. I have heard that new residents are struggling to find a local GP. We need more Doctors on Bribie Island.
June	B	We need this. Just can't get appointments.
Louise	B	When we are sick we need access to a GP within a short time especially if working and employers request a medical certificate. More GPs would mean easier access locally and reduce travel times especially for older members of the community.
Christine	L	It is getting so difficult to get a GP appt on Bribie Island. Our local member has been useless promoting our issues. We are one of the oldest demographics in Qld. We had no help getting a timely Covid Jab & now we have issues seeing a GP in a timely manner. We deserve better & we

		will vote for it at the next Fed. Election. Be warned Mr Hunt!
Gary & Gail	M	If you want my vote, ensure more doctors for Bribie Island, NOW!
Deborah	A	My local Dr at Pumicestone Rd closed due to being unable to secure Drs. Now struggling to find a new one. People with specialist appointments need to now find a new dr to get a replacement referral before their appointments
Deeba	S	The community will surely benefit with more GPs
Marjolein	d	I'm a GP at Ningi Doctors and we desperately need more doctors to cover our extensive opening hours and continue to provide quality care for our patients.
Racheal	W	We need more gp's... NOW
Natasha	B	Fix our GP crisis
Pamela	H	After trying to make an appointment with my GP that I have been with since 2008 they told me I was taken off the books because I hadn't been there in 19 months this is not acceptable as you can't just go to the doctors because of time you need to go when you are sick. I tried to find another doctor on the island but no one was accepting new patients. I made an appointment over at Morayfield pub then once my son was notified of what happened he rang the doctors and they finally excepted me back. It is not that I went to any other doctor I just have not been to the doctors as I haven't been sick so why I should be taken off the books for a doctor that I have been with for nearly 14 years I don't know. All I can put it down to is the doctor shortage and apparently regular patients get wiped off if they don't go often enough To allow for new patients that can
Heidi	C	We need it..
Debra	W	I'm 67 and concerned about health support as I get older.
Jo	L	I moved to Bribie from Melbourne, nearly a year ago. As I work full time it is impossible to get a doctor appointment as a new patient requiring a time after 3.30pm. If I'm sick and need an appointment quickly, they won't see me as I'm a new patient and have to wait about two weeks for an appointment. I just go to Caboolture super clinic instead, who are great, but quite a drive away, especially when unwell.
Barry	E	We need more doctors here right now please.
Rhonda	V	More doctors for our region . It's impossible to get into see a doctor when it's last minute decision. Like unexpected sickness. I can't plan my doctors appointments. Due to working .
Afra	F	We have an unusual population demographic and really need caring gps!
Danielle	T	I have recently moved to the island, no doctor was taking new patients and I had to take my ill child to Morayfield. I had better access to GPs in Rockhampton!

Matthew	C	By making this area DPA, it makes it an attractive area for GP's to move to, or stay in the area to meet return of service requirements once Fellowship is obtained. This will allow local practices to keep rural pathway GP's, leading to an increase in medical services quality and capacity.
Liza	P	Need more GP to cater for the needs of people in none emergency cases!
Jose	P	Make Pumicestone a DPA.
Susan	B	As a mature age person, I have deep concerns that I will not locate a GP after relocating making it necessary to travel long distances to seek out treatment. I believe there are many mature age residents on Bribie Island Queensland, however the information I am receiving is that there is a definite lack of GP appointments available.
Patti	H	Please, please listen to our communities. We urgently need your help and support!
Andrea	R	Not much point building a medical centre if we have no doctors. We have to wait a long time for appointments and not enough doctors here
Denis	M	With this area being comprised of a significantly ageing population there should be access to appropriate medical facilities.
Bernard	C	Waiting times are absolutely atrocious
Elisabeth	M	We moved to Bribie island almost a year ago and can't get into any local GP. Thus means we need to travel back to our previous GP which is about 75 mins each way and about 120 K return. Please fix this as it is not sustainable
Therese	M	People are desperately in need of GP assistance. Please increase incentives to capture GPs looking for a truly beautiful coastal location to work in.
Heslam	M	So many medical facilities in Beachmere, so few doctors. The sick need security,
Melissa	C	We need more doctors doing a 2 hour round trip just to see a doctor is ridiculous we have lived here for a year and having to drive elsewhere to get an appointment and taking days off work and losing income just to see a GP
Emily	S	It is terrible when I can't find the help and support I need for my children. Also most of the doctors work part-time so it is now hard to find a family doctor that cares. The good doctors are not taking new patients. This makes it very stressful as a parent. I remember as a kid growing up, having a doctor that had the time to see me. I think he helped me as a teen and he even made extra effort to help my family. I want the same for my children but GPs are so busy and change so much it is not the same.
Kate	D	We desperately need new doctors at Bribie Island and Ningi I have two disabled children and having to wait weeks for a doctors appointments is NOT acceptable.
Colleen	L	Wait times are too long, constantly having to a different doctor. Not having the continuity of doctor is not providing a holistic medical care

Kelsey	P	I may not live on the Island, but work on the Island full time. I have a 3 year old daughter that attends childcare on the Island, and on numerous occasions have had trouble finding a GP. All for this movement!
Stella	W	Please do this before somebody dies because they cannot get an urgent appointment with their GP
Jannene	N	It's disgusting that people in our area can't get a doctors appointment for weeks. Why do we pay taxes. What will it take for the Government to wake up, is a pandemic not enough.
Allan	H	Please it's urgent
Julie	T	We need to recruit and keep more GPs
Delma	E	We need more doctors in the Caboolture/Bribie area.
Michael	E	We desperately need more bulk billing GP is on the island
Jeanette	E	We need more bulk billing doctor's on Bribie Island to cater for the growing population.
Debbie	T	Our community is growing rapidly. We need access to GP services.
Karen	P	My husband sees Dr Kearney and has had him say why didn't you come in earlier to see me about this and he says but this is the earliest appointment I could get it was 3 weeks wait.
Elizabeth	R	I am moving to Bongaree in August 2021 and would greatly desire to be able to find a GP on Bribie Island who can oversee my health at my new place of residence.
Timothy	C	It is getting impossible for a middle-aged bloke to get a doctors appointment without a two week wait in the local area.
Frederick	P	There should be no delay or inability for a sick person to see a GP.
Robert	M	I was a client of the GP practice that was forced to close in Caboolture. The doctor who was there had so many clients that she could not take any more new clients!!!! The medical centre was forced to close because they were not able to find more doctors. I believe the new medical centre that I was fortunate enough to become a client of cannot take any more clients as they are at their limit!!!! This is just wrong and demonstrates the need for more doctors in the area.
Tanya	P	Access to local doctors is critical and we need a bulk billing hub.
Elizabeth	S	Urgently needed more local Doctors
Roslyn	F	Most doctors have closed their books they are so busy. Not happy with my current doctor but can't even transfer. Live on Bribie and have to travel or go without good health care.
Gayle	F	Not knowing 4 weeks ahead that we will need to see a doctor is hard! I mean, if I am sick today, I am sick today and I didn't know 4 weeks ago...

		<p>This GP shortage is Australia wide & the DPA system is just not working. Overseas recruitment not possible in many locations & of course COVID is impacting in many ways.</p> <p>Recent COVID incentives to assist general practice to move to Telehealth to provide care for patients has been taken away in quarterly incentives without consultation. It is an absolute disgrace that medical centres trying to keep bulk billing for patients have been penalized in this manner - the Telehealth visits were not counted in the calculation for quarterly incentive. Give with one hand & take away with the other! GP practices are at the frontline in this current health crisis - costs have increased on every front & very little being done to help maintain safe & accessible services for patients.</p>
Julie	G	
Anne-Marie	P	We need GPs. My doctor's practice needs more doctors. Bribie Island is calling for much needed help.
Giselle	C	Definitely need more GPS and a reliable AHGP service that will service bribie island
Tony	F	We need more doctors
Anita	G	Shouldn't the elderly get priority appointments as a matter of urgency. Why should the elderly have to suffer and drive to Brisbane for doctors appointments this is very unfair on them!
Corinne	M	Not right that can't see a Dr for up to a week especially with children let alone the age demographics of Bribie Island and surrounds.
		Pumicestone locals deserve to be able to see a GP when they need one.
Robby	M	Come on, Minister Hunt - Pumicestone should be a priority. It's time to reclassify Bribie, Beachmere, Caboolture and surrounds as Distribution Priority Areas.
Ross	H	We need doctors in an aging demographic
Barbara	R	We URGENTLY need to have more GPS in our area I & many more people like myself end up taking up hospital beds simply because we couldn't be seen early enough by our local GP.
Judith	G	Moving into our property which is rented out at moment very soon.
Max	S	I had an eye injury and all medical surgeries visited referred me to a chemist.
Tanya		I have not been able to find a doctor since moving here in January. It has made us rethink our move to the area.
Ian	S	Just because we are currently a ALP. State doesn't mean that we should not have the doctor's that we require.
Nicole	W	More Gps please it takes weeks to get an appointment in Bribie

Nadine	E	I have 4 children, 2 have additional needs. We will definitely need a consistent doctor. It is very upsetting that a service everyone should be entitled to is unavailable.
Olivia	D	Urgent issue!
Gillian	P	Come on, Minister Hunt - Pumicestone should be a priority. It's time to reclassify Bribie, Beachmere, Caboolture and surrounds as Distribution Priority Areas.
Debra	C	We need better GP services throughout the Moreton Bay Region. Wait times can be days if not weeks.
Heslam	M	Our doctors are our lifeline to a healthy life.
Heslam	M	Time for change.
Kathleen	W	I am so sick of having to wait 2 weeks or more for a 10 minute appointment with a GP who is running 1 hour late! This is ridiculous and NOT GOOD ENOUGH! Fix it Greg Hunt!!

Appendix 3: Correspondence from office of the Hon. Greg Hunt. Minister for Health and Aged Care



Office of the Hon Greg Hunt MP Minister for Health and Aged Care

Ref No: MC21-017972

13 AUG 2021

Ms Ali King MP
Member for Pumicestone
1/43 Benabrow Avenue
BELLARA QLD 4507

Dear Ms King

I refer to your correspondence to the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, on behalf of your constituents concerning doctor shortages in the Electoral district of Pumicestone, including Bribie Island, Queensland. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf. I regret the delay in responding.

The Australian Government is strongly committed to improving the access, quality and sustainability of health services for all Australians, regardless of where they live. The primary issue of the health workforce in Australia is no longer a matter of undersupply but of equitable distribution, with data showing that over the past decade the rate of increase in GP numbers in Australia has been two and a half times greater than that of the general population. The majority of growth in GP numbers has been in major capital cities and metropolitan areas, which currently have high levels of primary health care services compared to regional and remote locations.

The Department of Health uses the Distribution Priority Area (DPA) indicator to identify the distribution challenges of the health workforce. It is used to identify the level of services provided to a population and to assess whether there is a service shortfall in that area so that doctors with location restrictions can be directed to deliver services in areas of greatest need. The indicator supports practices by offering access to a broader recruitment pool of doctors, it is simply an indicator, it does not guarantee a doctor nor does it prevent recruitment of Australian trained doctors.

The DPA system compares the GP services received by the population of a GP catchment against a benchmark level of access, if a catchment has less access to GP services than the benchmark, the area will be classified DPA. Alternatively, if a catchment has greater access to GP services than the benchmark, the area will be classified non-DPA. Pumicestone is classified as non-DPA as it has been assessed as accessing GP services that exceed the benchmarks.

The Electoral district of Pumicestone, which includes Bribie Island, includes two GP Catchments, Caboolture and Bribie-Beachmere. The Catchment of Caboolture is between five and 10 per cent above the benchmark and the Catchment of Bribie-Beachmere is less than 10 per cent above the benchmark.

The DPA is reviewed and updated annually to reflect the latest available data. The Department has not previously published the detailed working data used to calculate DPA status, however, at the most recent annual update, on 1 July 2021, the Department published the level of variance above and below the DPA benchmarks for each GP catchment on its website.

This is to provide practices and their communities with greater transparency around the level of services access compared to the benchmarks, with the goal of enhancing awareness and understanding of the DPA indicator. This information can be found at: www.health.gov.au using the search term 'DoctorConnect'.

The Government recognises the impact that DPA status can have on practices in an area. As such, the Department will review the DPA in 2021. Further a new process will be implemented for towns with concerns to have their evidence re-assessed to ensure we fully understand the concerns about doctor shortages in an area.

You mentioned changing the Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification of the Pumicestone area to allow access to the automatic rule that states that areas classified as MM 5-7 are automatically classified as DPA. The MMM is a geographic classification system developed to better categorise metropolitan, regional, rural, remote and very remote areas according to geographical remoteness and town size. It is a data-based geographic classification system based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Area as determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and does not include a discretionary component. As the MMM is based on ABS Census population data, it is not possible to change the classification of the area from MM 1 to MM 5.

I note there are a broad range of programs to encourage junior doctors, GP registrars and qualified GPs to train and work in rural communities which may be of assistance to practices in the Pumicestone area. Access to the full collection of factsheets on incentives and support for GPs and general practices in MM locations can be found at: www.health.gov.au using the search term 'Incentives and support for GPs and general practices in MM locations'.

Regardless of DPA status, the Government is committed to ensuring all Australians have access to high-quality medical services. The Government provides funding to Primary Health Networks (PHN) who are independent primary health care organisations that aim to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health and medical services for patients. The PHNs improve coordination of care and patient access to ensure patients receive the right and the right time. To discuss workforce shortages in your area, you may wish to contact Brisbane North PHN on [REDACTED] or via email at: [REDACTED]

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Joanne Tester
Chief of Staff

Appendix Four: Correspondence from the office of the Minister for Rural Health the Hon. David Gillespie



THE HON DR DAVID GILLESPIE MP
 Minister for Regional Health
 Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment
 Deputy Leader of the House
 Member for Lyne

Ref No: MC21-029101

Mr Terry Young MP
 Member for Longman
 PO box 42
 CABOOLTURE QLD 4510
Terry.Young.MP@aph.gov.au

23 SEP 2021

Terry
 Dear Mr. Young

Thank you for your representations of 30 August 2021 on behalf of Ms Ali King MP, concerning GP shortages in the Electorate of Pumicestone, Queensland. I note that Ms King also wrote to the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, on 13 August 2021 (MC21-017972).

I note Ms King's concerns about accessing GP services in the electorate of Pumicestone. The primary issue of rural health workforce in Australia is one of inequitable distribution and one that our Government is focused on addressing through a wide range of initiatives and programs.

The Government recognises the need for long-term collaborative workforce planning and is developing a National Medical Workforce Strategy for this purpose. Development includes working with the sector and the states and territories to identify achievable, practical actions to build a sustainable, highly trained medical workforce. The challenges of geographic distribution of the workforce, supporting more rural training opportunities and access to services for all communities, especially in rural and remote areas, are key considerations in the strategy.

While the government does not directly employ medical professionals, it funds a broad range of programs and incentives to encourage doctors to train and work in rural communities which may be of assistance to practices in Pumicestone. Access to the full collection of factsheets on government incentives and support for general practices can be found at: www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/incentives-and-support-for-gps-and-general-practices-in-rm-locations.

The Government is committed to ensuring all Australians have access to high-quality medical services. The Government established 31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs) as independent primary health care organisations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health and medical services for patients. PHNs were established to improve the coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care, in the right place, at the right

time. In addition to commissioning and integrating health services for their region, PHNs work closely with GPs and other health professionals to build health workforce capacity and support general practice. To discuss workforce shortages in Pumicestone, I encourage you to contact Brisbane North PHN on (07) 3630 7300 or via email at: contactus@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.

Additionally, the Government funds a network of seven Rural Workforce Agencies to assist communities that experience difficulties attracting and retaining health professionals into regional, rural and remote areas. I encourage the community to continue to work collaboratively with Health Workforce Queensland (HWQ) to address the issues faced in the local area. They can be contacted on (07) 3105 7800 or at: www.healthworkforce.com.au.

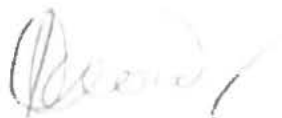
Ms King raises concerns about the current Distribution Priority Area (DPA) status of areas within her electorate. The DPA indicator is used to identify the level of services provided to a population and is used to assess whether there is a service shortfall in that area. The system is one of many initiatives to encourage doctors who are subject to location restrictions to work in regional, rural, and remote communities. The system assesses areas annually by comparing GP access across Australian communities. DPA status does not guarantee a doctor, nor does it prevent recruitment of Australian trained doctors. DPA replaced the previously used Districts of Workforce Shortage (DWS) for general practice in 2019.

As well intentioned as the DPA classification system is, I am concerned that it is not sufficiently contemporaneous or agile in responding to the current GP services needs of some communities. I have therefore asked the Department of Health to a review of the policy and methodology underpinning the DPA for GPs classification system. I have asked that the review be ambitious in its intent, open to innovative thinking and broadly consultative to ensure that concerns are addressed. I anticipate it will commence once a suitable reviewer is appointed and report by the end of 2021. Please be assured that I will move quickly to address any recommendations.

In addition, I have worked with my Department to establish an exceptional circumstances assessment framework to provide for a more fulsome, independent, and real time review of non-DPA status areas with GP services access concerns. Anyone can apply for an assessment and applicants must work with their local Rural Workforce Agency. Applications will be considered by the Distribution Working Group (DWG) within weeks of a full application. The DWG is an independent expert committee that advises the Government on rural health workforce distribution issues. Membership of the Group includes a variety of peak bodies representing the rural health workforce, including the National Rural Health Commissioner, the Department, and independent medical advisors. The DWG will undertake stakeholder engagement as needed. Further information on the assessment process is enclosed.

Thank you for bringing Ms King's concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Dr David Gillespie MP