

**From:** [MD13-CentralQLD-HSD](#)  
**To:** [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Response to Letter from Jim Pearce MP - Re Inquiry into FIFO and other long distance commuting work practices in Qld  
**Date:** Wednesday, 27 May 2015 7:54:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Dear Jim

We commend this enquiry as it is an important issue of Fly In, Fly Out commuting work practices in regional communities.

In relation to the committee's Terms of Reference, we have listed below some of the key points that impact on provision of health services in communities that have large mining services.

- In relation to managing FIFO workers, the health service faces challenges, as often there is no medical history of these patients and they are not known to clinical/medical staff at the health service.
- There are often no family support networks to help workers once they are released from the health services, particularly in the area of Mental Health. Follow up care is often hard to arrange as the FIFO model often means they are receiving follow up care from treatments initiated in e.g. Blackwater or Springsure and then on their days off they are managed where they reside. There is often a break in the continuity of care.
- Generally due to being disconnected from their families, there is often an increase in mental health related issues and long distance driving and fatigue issues often resulting in multi-trauma events.

We look forward to the findings of this committee's inquiry and please don't hesitate to contact me if the committee needs any further information regarding the health impacts of FIFO workforce practice in Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service.

Kind regards

Michele

**Michele Gardner**

Executive Director

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