

MEDIA RELEASE

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Approved by: Cr John Medcalf, Chair of Centroc, Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council

Centroc pushes for the Murray Darling Medical School

Mayors of the region were delighted to be part of resounding support from across Australia for a greater number of medical schools in regional universities. On the same day, The Chair of Centroc, Cr John Medcalf of Lachlan, met with the Assistant Minister for Health to discuss the Murray Darling Medical School. Centroc represents 13 Local Government areas in central NSW, covering an area the same size as Tasmania with a bigger GDP and half its population.

“We spoke with the Assistant Minister to seek an update of this review although we are confused about why one was needed in the first place when it is a first for any medical school proposition. The fact is we have challenging health outcomes and doctor to patient ratios in our region and we know that the Murray Darling Medical School model works,” said Cr Medcalf, Chair of Centroc, Mayor of Lachlan Shire Council

“The current model really doesn’t work for our smaller communities where we have spent decades offering cars and houses, building medical centres and the like. Despite years of being promised a tsunami of Australian trained doctors, this has never materialised. If we don’t do something different the situation will just be the same or even more inequitable,” said Cr Ken Keith, Mayor of Parkes.

“This region has been a resounding supporter of growing our own health workforce, particularly our own medical workforce. I have visited James Cook University to see their model and the Centroc Board is of a view that regional NSW desperately needs to have a different, better and sustainable approach to training doctors, nurses and allied health,” said Bill West Mayor of Cowra

Centroc understand that Charles Sturt and La Trobe Universities commissioned an independent review by PPB Advisory that shows that the MDMS will help solve doctor shortages in regional NSW and Victoria by providing up to 90 doctors to the region each year. The MDMS is potentially a three to five times more efficient spend of Federal Monies than metropolitan universities in training doctors and will bring around \$2 billion in additional benefits to the region through direct expenditure and secondary impacts producing jobs and growth. Most importantly, it will improve health outcomes.

A second independent report by PPB Advisory shows the impact on clinical training places. It found that there was sufficient capacity in aggregate in inland NSW and Victoria to meet the training needs of MDMS students.

“I’m not sure how many independent reviews we need and why our communities have to go the extra mile when we are already doing so much more than our metropolitan cousins. We need to train our own young people in our own regions to serve our own communities,” said Cr Medcalf



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“Our councils will work with the MDMS to encourage all our local health services to prioritise training capacity for rural medical graduates who are the most likely to remain in rural practice. We are calling on the government to work with us on delivery,” said Cr Medcalf

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