



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Date of Release: 29 October 2010

Approved by: Cr Neville Castle

Unanimous support calling on the Federal Government to provide full funding for the Charles Sturt University medical school program

“Members from the Centroc region attending the meeting in on Wednesday called for the Federal Government to provide full funding for the medical school program in Charles Sturt University’, said Cr Castle, Chair of Centroc, Mayor of Lithgow.

“Regional areas have less than half the number of total doctors compared to major cities and the figures are worse in NSW,” said Cr Castle.

“We know that if we train doctors in the country they stay in the country. This is the same for all other health workforce. There is so much data showing that the only way to ensure ongoing numbers of doctors in Central NSW is to have them trained here,” said Cr Castle.

“The retention rates from James Cook University in Townsville show 66% of medical students came from rural areas and 64% of the first cohort of graduates, commenced internships in rural areas. At the moment, only 4.29% of Australian Medical Graduates enter practice in rural areas” said Cr Castle.

“We also know that the health of our people is worse, this has been tracked in so many ways,” said Cr Castle.

“Centroc members support all universities offering training and we know that there are many working in the region. At the same time to really get doctors and other health workforce staying in Central NSW, we need to have is a medical school in the region where 100% of the student time is spent right here,” said Cr Castle.

“What is really disturbing is that even with the greater numbers of doctors being trained, we still need more. Australia needs 356 additional medical student places each year to meet current and future demand to 2025 according to the National Health Workforce Taskforce. Based on the data on where doctors end up after their training, we will be going further backwards at this rate” said Cr Castle.

“Something real and effective needs to be done. We need a medical school here, west of the sandstone curtain,” said Cr Castle.



CENTRAL NSW
COUNCILS

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

“The Federal Government needs to do something real about health care in regional NSW. The medical school at Charles Sturt University is the answer,” said Cr Castle.

ENDS

For media enquiry contact: Jenny Bennett 0428 690 935