

Media Release

13 February 2025

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HEALTHCARE ANNOUNCEMENTS

EQUITY AND FAIRNESS MISSING FOR THE FAR SOUTH COAST

For 40 years healthcare funding for Far South Coast (FSC) communities has been reactive and piecemeal rather than being based on fairness and equity.

Access to GPs and other primary care services is the highest priority healthcare issue identified by individuals and organisations who have already signed up to the Tuross Head Progress Association's (THPAs) healthcare campaign.

Dr Arn Sprogis, Chair of the THPA's Health Subcommittee, said it shows that our communities believe in and support fairness of access and funding for healthcare for all the community, a principle that has been missing from the healthcare debate from all major political parties.

"For example, the THPA strongly supports the latest [women's health package announced by the ALP](#) which is a great initiative and long overdue. However, women across the FSC have seriously delayed or occasionally no access to GPs and so will have delayed or no access to the government program, this is unfair and unacceptable," Dr Sprogis said.

"This delay is a direct result of inequitable healthcare funding by successive governments over four decades. **In a fair system patients should be able to see a GP on the same day for urgent care and with two days for routine care.**

"Recent analysis by the Grattan Institute has reinforced what those of us living on the FSC already know, there are too few GPs to ensure everyone can get the care they need when they need it."

As reported in [The Conversation on 27 January 2025](#), the Grattan Institute analysed [data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#) and assessed half a million Australians primarily in rural communities are living in "GP deserts."

This was highlighted in the [National Rural Health Alliance NOUS REPORT](#) that identified underfunding for all rural communities (THPA 2025 estimate of \$1,000 per person per year adjusted for inflation and population). This equates to an \$80 million per year funding deficit for the FSC, leading to higher death rates, prolonged periods of illness and increased suffering.

"We are yet to see any major healthcare announcements from the Liberal Party or Greens but we are demanding that all political parties in the 2025 Federal Election listen to the concerns of the community and address the funding shortfall. The FSC is not asking for more funding per person, we are asking for the same funding as city populations. **With equal funding, we can have the best access and quality of GP and other primary care in Australia, not the worst.**" Dr Sprogis said.

The THPA is now actively forming alliances with communities from Bateman's Bay to Eden to expand the reach and impact of the healthcare campaign.

"We've had a great response so far, but we need more support to show candidates in Gilmore and Eden Monaro that we are past breaking point and demand fair access and funding for healthcare," Dr Sprogis said.

FSC residents and volunteer community organisations can join the campaign by visiting www.thpa.com.au/health-2025 and signing up.

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