



NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH
ALLIANCE INC.

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Leaders: Over to you on rural health!

After meeting in Canberra over four days, the 29 organisations in the National Rural Health Alliance have clearly indicated to parliamentarians on all sides the immediate and medium-term priorities relating to the health of rural and remote people. Rural Australians now want to hear the commitments of the major Parties on this - including how they will demonstrate continuing accountability on the matter.

Jenny May, Chair of the Alliance, said there is no silver-bullet for better health outcomes in the Bush.

“The seven-point plan the Alliance has agreed is complex and challenging. It covers a wide range of topics including broadband, health reform, health infrastructure, oral health, hospital resources and workforce development,” Dr May said.

“These things are all critical for improved rural health and what is needed is a steady commitment from all parties that will last across many election cycles,” she said.

While in Canberra, the Alliance Council had valuable discussions with three of the Independents, Tony Windsor, Rob Oakeshott and Bob Katter.

“We are very pleased to be involved in negotiations with the three country Independents but the critical thing will be the view of the major Party which forms government. So what we would like to hear now is what the major Parties propose on rural health and wellbeing,” Dr May said.

The Alliance is in the game for the long haul and will work with whoever is in government. But the immediate need is for Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott is to put their position on the public record and clearly state their intentions.

The Alliance’s seven-point plan and the set of commitments it has proposed to the major Parties and the Independent MPs are both at www.ruralhealth.org.au

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