



**Gavin Pearce MP**  
Federal Member for Braddon

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### **Federal government funds strategy to get more GPs in our region**

Attracting more GPs to rural and regional areas suffering desperate shortages is the goal of a new agreement between the Tasmanian and Commonwealth governments.

Federal MP Gavin Pearce said this is great news, and a big step towards attracting more junior GPs to the North-West, West Coast and King Island.

“The current system penalises junior doctors who choose general practice,” Mr Pearce said.

“Junior doctors can have up to five years of training in Tasmania’s hospital system. If they then choose to work in general practice, they must walk away from five years of accrued entitlements – annual leave, parental leave and sick leave for example. This is because GPs are not employed by the state health department.”

“Under the new model, doctors training to specialise in rural medicine will have the choice of being employed by the Tasmanian Health Service for their training period. This will allow for a seamless transition throughout their hospital and community-based GP training placements.”

“Removing barriers to getting GPs living and working in our region is key to solving our GP shortage problem. Once they get here, they fall in love with the place. Why wouldn’t they?”

“Congratulations to Premier and Health Minister Jeremy Rockliff for the heavy lifting he has done getting this initiative over the line.”

“This is another great example of Tasmania leading the way when it comes to putting forward creative solutions to get more GPs in the bush.”

The \$13 million pilot program will support up to 20 GP registrars, with rotations in community GP practices, as well as in the hospital system. It is jointly funded, with \$8 million from the Australian government and \$5 million from the Tasmanian government

**Ends**