



Dale Last MP
Member for Burdekin

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Media Release – Hitting the road for better health care

A 1,000 kilometre road trip will help Member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP, showcase the health service needs of his electorate to the National Rural Health Commissioner this week.

With the need to improve healthcare a priority for people in many centres throughout the electorate, Mr Last said Professor Ruth Stewart's visit was a key part of his approach to the problem.

"Getting the standard of healthcare in regional Queensland is a complex task," Mr Last said. "The reality is that we need to identify all of the issues that have led to the problem so that we can find solutions and solutions need to be found at both the state and federal government levels."

"To have Professor Stewart visit the electorate and meet with the people who are directly affected by the healthcare issues is a huge opportunity. Here we have a person with extensive experience as a doctor in rural settings that has a direct link to the federal Health Minister and is a key stakeholder in policy development for rural health."

"We will be meeting with doctors, other healthcare providers, community members and groups to ensure that Professor Stewart has the information and the insights she needs to help in her work and to help communities throughout my electorate and, in fact, regional and remote Australia."

Mr Last said he hoped that the National Rural Health Commissioner's visit would not just guide federal government policy but would also highlight areas where the state government could assist.

"There is such a broad range of factors that have led to the situation we face now that we need action at both levels of government," Mr Last said. "Issues from funding to training and everything in between have contributed to the current situation and will need to be addressed to fix it."

"Given that Professor Stewart is an independent statutory office holder, I would like to think the state government will take note of her recommendations and suggestions. If spending a few hours in the car helps find solutions to the healthcare problems, then it will be well and truly worth it."

"When some people in the area have had to travel more than 200km just to see a doctor, this trip is the least I can do to help."



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