



2021 LHN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

MEMBER UPDATE No.10 RSS Cancels Meeting - Not Listening to Rural Doctors

19 August 2021

Welcome to the tenth (10th) edition of this *Member Update*.

In our last *Update* (2 August) we reported to you that we came away from our 30 July RSS preliminary meeting believing “we may have finally achieved an RSS comprehension breakthrough”. Since, every action (or inaction) by RSS demonstrates the total opposite.

Members will not need to be reminded that the largest meeting of doctors in rural SA history, in part, **called for:** “a formal meeting to give RSS the opportunity to demonstrate capability and commitment to resolve the current contract impasse it has created; AND (their) preparedness to take our responsible reform offer seriously.” In response, RSS has:

- Cancelled our booked meeting for 19 August.
- Not indicated any time line for their reengagement with us.
- Not told us what we might expect from them some time in the future, but, whatever it is, it will be “in writing” (rather than through an RSS offer to meet with us).
- Told us that the Member mass meeting Motion (and its associated correspondence) really didn’t mean anything to them.
- **Crucially**, RSS have rejected our request to meet directly with LHN CEOs as a group (verbally, but we have asked for this in writing, still without response).

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM AND TO PROVE WE MEAN WHAT WE SAY – LOOK OUT FOR THE TOOL KIT & USE IT TO YOUR COMMUNITY’S ADVANTAGE
(see below about what you can do)

MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

There has been an outstanding survey response rate from rural GPs with data received from 41 different service locations. The survey rings alarm bells and shows you believe there is a critical shortage of rural doctors threatening the future of regional South Australia:

- 77% say the number of doctors is near or already below critical mass in their areas.
- 77% say there is tension between doctor workforce and health service needed in their local community.
- 79% say there are long-term vacancies for doctors in their community or that they are experiencing difficulties in recruiting doctors.

- 52% say access to locum relief for doctors in their community is either not available or not clinically suitable.
- 64% say they have been asked to help out colleagues in other locations or provide backfill, showing the SA rural doctor workforce is under significant pressure.

Calling on GPs to Act Locally (TOOL KIT)

Given where RSS has left us, your community and your patients really need you to activate to help us achieve our objectives. Our [Local Advocacy Tool Kit](#) is designed to help you press for our reform agenda at your local level. It will be available **this Friday, 20 August**.

The [Kit](#) contains (amongst other useful things): Two [template letters](#) to tell your local MP what the problems are and what needs to be fixed (one for GPs & one for your patients) AND a [Poster](#) for rooms so patients know that you are fighting for the sustainability of their local public health system.

We commit to continue to publish this *Member Update* regularly to ensure Members remain informed, maintain momentum and maintain public interest towards contract agreement. Look out for Edition No.11 of this *Member Update*.

Please feel free to distribute this *Member Update* to interested colleagues and throughout your networks. The more everyone is informed, the stronger our mandate to achieve success.

If you are not a member, please consider joining, by visiting the [RDASA](#) and [AMA\(SA\)](#) websites.

To provide comment or feedback, or for more information, please contact:

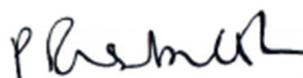
- RDASA: President: Dr Peter Rischbieth (Peter.Rischbieth@bridgeclinic.com.au) or Vice President: Dr Scott Lewis (drscott@internode.on.net)
- AMA(SA): Vice President: Dr John Williams (icwilliams1967@mac.com or president@amasa.org.au) or Chief Executive Officer: Dr Samantha Mead (CEO@amasa.org.au).

We look forward to providing further information and hearing your voices.

Yours sincerely



Dr John Williams
Vice President AMA(SA)



Dr Peter Rischbieth
President RDASA