



## **Andrew Laming MP**

Federal Member for Bowman

Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health Services and Indigenous Health

## **Angus Taylor**

Liberal Candidate for Hume

### **JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

15/04/13

### **Coalition committed to regional NSW health**

Coalition Regional Health Shadow Andrew Laming, Liberal candidate for Hume Angus Taylor and Member for Hume Alby Schultz met with doctors, nursing staff, community representatives and local government officials from Cootamundra, Grenfell, Boorowa and Cowra today to discuss the health needs of these communities.

Candidate Angus Taylor said the Coalition was set and ready to prioritise rural health in government.

“The Coalition’s commitment to rural health has always been and will remain strong.

“The previous Coalition government established nine new medical schools and 10 Rural Clinical Schools which increased to 14 by 2007. This provided tertiary infrastructure in rural Australia and has fostered important professional networks for practitioners practising in rural Australia.

“We know that health practitioners who train in the bush are much more likely to work in the bush, so in government we will continue to support measures which see more training done in our regions,” Mr Taylor said.

Dr Laming said the flawed geographical classification system remained the biggest issue amongst stakeholders.

“Nearly every stakeholder we met with today raised concerns about the classification system and despite the overwhelming evidence, Labor still won’t admit its mistake, let alone fix it.

“At present, major regional cities such as Cairns and Townsville are considered to be more remote than Cootamundra and Cowra, making it difficult to attract and retain the doctors, nurses and allied health staff needed.

“The Coalition has been listening to the concerns of regional communities and understands the issues they face. Unlike Labor, we will better target our precious health resources to the areas that need them the most,” Dr Laming and Mr Taylor said.

#### Contacts

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