

## ALGA CONFERENCE, 20 – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

### NOTES FROM CR CATE CROSS

#### 1. Regional issues

- Need for regional learning options
- **Regional Australian Institute** presentation focussed on regional no longer means only rural jobs. 1 in 5 in metro areas thinking about regional move – choice based on family and liveability.
- RAI has a **Liveability Toolkit** – [movetomore.com.au](http://movetomore.com.au)
- Has **supporter packs** for councils – can tap into campaign to launch our region
- Regional data hubs established – **Regional Data Australia** – there is funding to establish one of these
- Regional connectivity hubs set up to assist regional areas get connected – mobile black spot program

#### 2. Health

**National Rural Health Alliance** – Dr Flynn scholarships– assists doctors to come to regions

RACCHO – Rural Area Community Controlled Health Organisation – is a place-based model of care

Barriers for doctors coming to rural areas – 60% not interested in becoming a business – need to change current model

Only 2% solo practices in rural areas

LG involvement with RACCHO –

- Facilitate community consultation
- Infrastructure
- Coordinate RACCHO

We need to stop going on about health shortages because the negative image could make situation worse

**Suicide – re-framing** – better way to think of in terms of community wellbeing rather than have suicide prevention committee

Intentional self harm can be precursor to suicide

Activities to support community wellbeing

- Mental health training
- Involvement of schools
- Specialists + support services
- Pop up hubs in main streets

**Our Health Clarence** – one community's response to suicide – had community + health experts to get together to look at making a plan about preventing suicide and / or after the event

**Banksia Project in Orange**

**COVID** -need 80% vaccinated to protect everyone

10% hard core anti vaccers – others need good media campaign to nudge them to get vaccinated

**Head Yakka** – mental health program initiative – [headyakka.org.au](http://headyakka.org.au)

### 3. LG specific issues

Infrastructure Australia – has **“Pipeline”** – their plan for priority projects – they welcome submissions – can sign up to their newsletter for further information

### 4. Climate change

Agriculture and environment will become enmeshed

Will lead to more pandemics

**National Climate Policies and Positions** - COP – leaders come together globally to talk about what they are doing – COP in Glasgow this year – overarching focus = need to focus on reducing temperature rise to less than 1.2 degrees.

**UK Plan** – has developed plans to highlight needs to reduce emissions through

- Nature based solutions
- Transport
- Adaptation – sharing experiences
- Water security

Focus now on mitigation as well as adaptation

**Australian Climate Service** – brings together peak agencies – provides detailed modelling on impacts and cost of those impacts

**GCoM** – Global Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy = international alliance of cities working together to achieve climate resilience - paper written – **“State of Play”** about LG and city networks accelerating climate action in Australia

**Emissions reduction** could be delivered faster if there was a national program to help LG

### 5. Recovery and resilience

**Current fiscal strategy** – will not be pulled back until unemployment below 4%

**Shane Fitzsimmons** defines **resilience** as “learning through lived experiences to understand what we are vulnerable to so that we can recover effectively. It is about healing. **Recovery** = need to reframe and talk about rebuilding – repair and reconstruction

**6 areas across NSW** to be established to work with local communities

**National Recovery and Resilience Agency** – is a permanent agency to start 1st July – Resilience Hubs to be established.

### 6. Waste

**National Waste Policy** – need long term transition for carbon workers – pivot to green opportunities eg green steel

### 7. Security

**Cyber security** – greatest current threat is ransomware. Currently health sector being targeted – but hospitality, government and energy all at risk

LG residents need to be reassured that their data is safe – smart meters, DA records, rating and billing – CyberArk – has created 8 podcasts to teach about cybersecurity.

## ALGA CONFERENCE, 20-23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2021

### NOTES FROM CR COR SMIT

#### REGIONAL FORUM SUNDAY 20 JUNE

##### 1. Opening remarks Linda Scott

Regions being rediscovered. Local Government major in creating jobs. \$12Bn. Being spent by regions. ALGA making the case with Federal Govt. that LG can lead recovery and create jobs. Partnership is important. Business and all levels of Govt. Resources are needed.

ALGA pushing for seat on National Cabinet.

##### 2. KEYNOTE ADDRESS – GABRIELLE CHAN

Localism can fix politics

Cf Parliamentary reporting with Life in the bush on a farm. Press gallery conversations do not match what happens on the Main Street. Locals know the needs. Government doesn't.

Political trends

1 The Rusted. Off Factor continues - more political candidates, parties, involvement

2 Agriculture and environment come together. Global markets are moving that way.

3 Food demand and natural capital markets could increase the trend towards scale

Average age of farmers now 57. Canadian Super firm now the biggest landholder by value

Regenerative farming and food tourism growing in agricultural scene.

##### 3. KEYNOTE ADDRESS – KIM HOUGHTON

Regions Rediscovered: Are we ready. Housing People and jobs 67500 more jobs in regional areas mostly professionals high skilled trades also hospitality and caring. 1. In 5 metro residents thinking of moving to the regions. Choices based on liveability and or knowing people having contacts and connections. [www.movetomore.com.au](http://www.movetomore.com.au). [Regionalaustralia.org.au](http://Regionalaustralia.org.au)

##### 4. REGIONAL PROGRAMS SESSIONS

- Rachel Bacon Dept. Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication.

Supporting regional areas

Strong regional leadership here

6 drivers

Building and maintaining connectivity

Investing in human

Supporting regional employment

Leadership critical

Amenity and Livability

Regional Data Hubs

Minister working with ALGA

Capacity really important

Significant employers

LG valued delivery partners for governments

Regional growth 3x Metropolitan

Sustainable natural resources

- Luke Hartsuyker Chair, Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee

Every 3 years a review in regional and remote Australia by Committee  
Looking at improvements. Covid illustrated of what can be achieved regionally.  
LG needs to report information from LGA to the Committee

- Professor David Perkins Director, Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, Uni of Newcastle, and Gabrielle O’Kane CEO, National Rural Health Alliance

Should acknowledge different models of care required  
Would employ a range of Health Care Professionals  
2percent of doctors work in solo practices. Not easy to attract to regional areas.  
Could be a training hub for new students coming through  
Higher death by suicide  
This isn’t political One size will not fit all  
Rural suicides in regions higher in all states  
Risk candidates are not always in contact with health people  
Not always ‘marginalised  
45pc of us can expect to have an issue with mental health in our lifetimes

#### 5. PANEL OF MAYORS SESSION

- Phyllis Miller Forbes

Built 2 units for seniors  
Then made payments to doctors, provided housing, paid for doctors< exams.  
2 surgeries built I combined surgeries cost \$2.5m. Went from 6 doctors to 12.  
Also purchased old aged care building near hospital converted to aboriginal medical centre with units to accommodate students and doctors.  
Partnership with Wollongong Uni..  
Then saved Govt. \$25m  
Now can’t get help from Govt for new Surgery  
VMO versus Locums issues  
Solution: 2 year rolling program visiting rotational city qualified-doctors. Facilitated through NSW Health. In return cancel or reduce HECS debts. After 2 years they might want to stay

- Sam Telfer LGA SA

Different dynamics. Small communities 1 - 3k people. Looking for GP’s RN”s Allied Health people.  
Issues with different levels of Government. 11 LGA”s, 2 city 9 country. 50%. Dr’s past retiring age.  
Sustainable GP training needed urgently. Exorbitant cost of locums. “Not our responsibility” no longer true. Councils need to take initiative. Doctors are not business people. Succession planning important. Professional support required.

#### 6. KEYNOTE ADDRESS – KEENAN JACKSON ‘Regional Trends’

Regions doing better than last year  
Govt. stimulus helped keep the economy going  
Coastal Tourism most impacted by Covid shut downs. Bounced back in areas close to most cities.  
Payroll data many areas above what they were before. MYTHS of growth being sustainable. Moving to regional areas may not continue. Interest rates may go up following US trends.

**NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MONDAY 21 JUNE**

1. Address by the Deputy Prime Minister

Acknowledgement of. Local Govt. level of government

Building better regions Fund 4quarter billion partly decentralisation fund.