



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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MEDICAL PLACES TO EASE GP SHORTAGE

Sharon Grierson today welcomed the announcement that the University of Newcastle and the University of New England would receive funding for 80 additional Commonwealth supported medical places as part of a joint program.

"Today's announcement is a tribute to the University of Newcastle and the leadership they have shown in putting forward this proposal." Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson said today.

"I am pleased to have supported the proposal earlier this year through representations to the Government on behalf of the Universities."

"At a time when the shortage of health workers in rural areas has begun to reach endemic levels, such leadership and vision from institutions like the University of Newcastle is a welcome relief and a great inspiration."

"The creation of these positions demonstrates the essential role that our tertiary institutions play in supporting our community and driving social change. This program will help address the chronic GP shortage in rural Australia."

"One of the Howard Government's most insidious policy agendas over the last decade has been its attempt to destabilise rural and regional Universities through funding cuts and policy impositions. This is a timely reminder for the Government that part of being a great nation is having great institutions and strong regional communities. The role of Government should be to support them, not hold them back."

"This funding has been a long time coming and in spite of the Government's procrastination it has thankfully been delivered."

"I join the Newcastle community in congratulating the University for driving this initiative"

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