

31 May 2018

New President Fights for a Fair Go for Regional Queenslanders

Dr Dilip Dhupelia has been elected new AMA Queensland President and Dr Michael Cleary new Vice President.

Dr Dilip Dhupelia is the Director of Medical and Clinical Services for Queensland Country Practice, Queensland Rural Medical Service for Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service and works as a part time GP in Toowong in Brisbane's inner west.

Dr Dhupelia has a particular interest in rural and remote health issues having worked for many years in regional areas.

Dr Dhupelia said urban patients have access to a broad range of health services and technological advances more quickly than those in regional and remote areas.

"Regional Queenslanders deserve healthcare of a similar standard to that enjoyed by city residents," Dr Dhupelia said.

"There is no lack of medical graduates, but too few of them choose to practice outside the South-East.

"There has been significant bipartisan investment in Queensland to support rural doctor training over recent years but this investment now needs to equate to a more equitable distribution of Specialists, Rural Generalists, General Practitioners and health workers to meet the community need of almost one third of Queensland's population.

Dr Dhupelia said it was not only important to encourage young doctors to work outside the South East, but also essential to provide more support for the families of these doctors who decided to relocate to regional and rural areas.

Dr Dhupelia said he would also advocate for certainty of post graduate training for our junior doctors so that the workforce maldistribution can be addressed.

AMA Queensland's new Vice President Dr Michael Cleary is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland and has more than 30 years' experience in the health sector. Dr Cleary works in a leadership role as the Executive Director of the Princess Alexandra and QE II Jubilee Hospitals in Brisbane.

**MEDIA CONTACTS: Fran Metcalf, Sequel PR – 0417 627 867 or 07 3251 8111
Chiara Lesèvre, AMA Queensland - 0419 735 641 or 07 3872 2209.**