



cmavridis@swarh.vic.gov.au

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To peter.chen@parliament.vic.gov.au

cc

bcc

Subject Website Submission for Youth Inquiry

Name: Christina Mavridis
Age: 33
Postcode: 3250
Email: cmavridis@swarh.vic.gov.au
Phone: 0409806979
Story:

Hi there,

Not sure if I'm too old to tell my story but here goes.

I grew up and was educated in Blackburn and upon completion of my uni degree in Physiotherapy found it a bit tricky to get a job in Melbourne and therefore looked outside of Melbourne and ended up in Ararat. I have had a short stint back in Melbourne but never looked back. I started working in 1996 and never looked back and am now Chief Physio at Colac Area Health.

Aside from meeting a country boy and staying put, there are other good reasons to stay out of the Melbourne workforce (but this helps alot-says alot for social connections).

I feel the main advantages are:

- Endless activities for lovers of outdoor pursuits
- Easy going nature and friendliness of most people
- Varied and interesting workload
- Proximity to major regional centres (Ballarat, Geelong and Warrnambool)
- Less populated (good when using public facilities and spaces)
- Close to coast line but not on the coast
- Close to forests
- Good IT facilities at work
- Cheaper housing in some areas (but quickly catching up)
- Opportunity to become involved in many community activities where interest is lacking and members are needed

Disadvantages are:

Poor transport and road infrastructure to Colac from all centres. All highways should be double lanes for flow of traffic these days-have we not figured this out yet!!!!Also no good for riding bikes on poor road surfaces with pot holes.

Not enough training and use of the great IT facilities we have-staff just aren't confident or set up properly to do telemedicine/videoconferencing.

People still think to work in a large research hospital is still the only way to be recognised-how do we change this and support our colleagues everywhere.

Demanding workload due to constant surge of available professionals leading to burnout and possibly wanting to leave profession.

Career structure problems in all industries -leading to poor career development of some and others remaining stagnant in others.

Hard to get into to see GP or obtain trade services due to lack of people available and sometimes quality.

Hope this provides some topics of discussion from a person who does not come from a country town but moved nonetheless and enjoys living here as well as travelling and visiting Melbourne (enjoying and appreciating the great things about Melb now more than ever) but happy to leave traffic and craziness behind.

Other things that help a person initially to move comfortably to the country is good accomodation and support from employer. I have been there and am now trying to support others who move out here and you would be surprised the lengths people go to to make people's move easier. Unfortunately it gets very tiring when the person leaves within a year or a few months and the whole process starts again!

I hope some real changes are made by this inquiry and it was interesting to see that thereis an inquiry into country football-I'm sure alot of teams/clubs are lacking young people also .

Cheers Chris Mav

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