9 December 2011

Mr Nathan Bunt
Executive Officer
Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee

Dear Nathan

General Practice Victoria (GPV) is the peak body for Victoria’s 29 divisions, associations and local networks of general practice. Divisions build capacity in general practice, working at the local level towards a skilled, viable and effective general practice sector to improve the health and well-being of Victorian communities. Divisions are currently forming new Medicare Locals in their areas and GPV is supporting this transition process.

In May this year, GPV submitted comments to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Liveability Options in Outer Suburban Melbourne. Many of our comments in that submission are equally relevant to the Terms of Reference for this inquiry and we would like to ensure that the submission is considered again for the purposes of this Inquiry. In particular, comments we made about access to GP services in outer metropolitan areas and the need for infrastructure development to support access to primary care are relevant to the following terms of reference:

(a) Identify existing public and private infrastructure provision, including schools, hospitals, commercial and shopping precincts, transport and roads, telecommunications, water and power;
(b) Assess the capacity of existing infrastructure to accommodate increased population growth;
(d) Catalogue the skills mix of outer suburban residents to identify those areas with a skills shortage and provide options for skills training and retention, especially as it relates to both younger and semi-retired people.

A copy of the May submission is attached.

Regards

John Rasa
CEO