

We know we can—because it's in our own hands

Marie Lally¹

¹Farmer and health consumer

With Bob Wells and Jane Hall having provided the evidence for a fresh policy approach to rural health and the economic justification for the sort of health system we need to meet the challenges of the 21st century, Marie's address will provide the inspiration and the explanation of how we can get there.

Marie's experiences at national, state and local levels give her valuable insight into how an improved system can be achieved. National and state policies provide the frameworks for services, and those levels will be ignored by people on the ground at their peril. But the best hope and the best outcome will be obtained through local commitment, energy and accountability. Marie will encourage everyone with an interest in better rural health to use the magic of their own personal and family experiences—just as she has used hers—as the basis for a persistent and effective mix of advocacy and action.

For each of us separately and in our community groups, an evidence base for continued striving for a bright rural future is provided by the five senses: what we see around us; what we hear from our friends and our wider network; the people and agencies touched by our reports; and the sweet smell and the taste of success.

