The impact of the NBN on rural patients and rural health practitioners

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The National Broadband Network

"These maps show the estimated likely coverage areas based on NBN Co's rollout plan, which may change following more detailed planning and design work."
Innovation in appliances
Equitable services
Equitable Services
Innovation in applications
Equity of access

Equity of access to healthcare is an ongoing issue for people living outside Australia's major population centres.

There is a critical shortage of doctors, specialists and allied health providers in regional, rural and remote areas. The AIHW Australia's health 2012 report found that people living in regional Australia have increased ratios of poor health and morbidity.

Timely access to quality specialist care is an integral part of any effective health system. Across much of regional Australia, access to specialists is limited and often involves significant delays and travel. The cost associated with travel to see specialists imposes a further financial burden city-dwellers don’t face.

AIHW Australia’s Health 2012 report found that:

- People who live in regional, rural and remote areas are more likely to report four or more health-risk factors than people who live in major cities.
- The five-year survival rate of people diagnosed with cancer decreases as their remoteness increases.
- People living in regional and remote areas continue to have higher rates of death from cardiovascular disease than other Australians.
- Rates of potentially preventable hospitalisation increase with remoteness.
- Health risks such as obesity are more common in outer regional and remote/very remote areas.

Specialists per 100,000 people:
142 in metropolitan Australia vs 24 in rural & remote areas

SOURCE: AIHW mental health survey 2011

Anywhere Healthcare?

Rapid and convenient access to specialists
Anywhere Healthcare guarantees the availability of a dedicated group of specialists at specific times for medical consultations, which reduces referral times and makes finding an appropriate specialist easier.

A net saving for the whole community
There are no set-up fees or ongoing costs for connecting GPs and patients to Anywhere Healthcare specialists. And, patients save time and the cost of travelling long distances for consultations. In some situations Anywhere Healthcare specialist consultations will be bulk billed. In other situations an out-of-pocket charge will apply.

Quality consultations
Medibank Health Solutions specialists are trained to deliver effective healthcare consultations online. The potential for the GP to ‘sit in’ on consultations can be reassuring for patients and can aid in the GP’s professional development.

Addressing a critical health need
Improved access to specialists via telehealth helps address the increased burden of disease experienced in regional communities. Earlier intervention and more frequent consultations have the potential to produce improved outcomes.

Community benefits
- Patient health concerns can be addressed earlier, potentially providing better outcomes and greater peace of mind.
- Easier access to specialists may reduce the

Easy to use
Anywhere Healthcare is a secure, web-based online care portal that is specifically designed for medical consultations. Administration time for GPs is reduced and appointments and consultations are easily booked and conducted.

Telehealth – transforming the way healthcare is delivered

Communities and Government are faced with the ongoing challenge of providing equitable healthcare to patients in regional Australia. With the increasing healthcare burden, limited healthcare resources and ever-increasing costs, achieving this aim has never seemed more difficult.

Anywhere health care
meditbank health solutions
In the home
In the home: Active gaming
Innovation in service delivery

- Broadband: Internet Access
- Public Services: Health?
- Social/Entertainment?
- Monitoring?
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Acceleration of the Rollout to 2016

This timeline is indicative only and subject to change without notification.
Industry Structure

NBN Co - Network Wholesaler (Layer 2 Ethernet Access)
Product Roadmap

The image above illustrates the planned timings of product releases and is subject to change.