

Using the ABS Patient Experience Survey to inform on rural health care

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The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Patient Experience Survey is conducted annually and collects national data on access and barriers to a range of health care services, including general practitioners, medical specialists, dental practitioners, hospital admissions and emergency department visits. Data are also collected on aspects of communication between patients and health professionals.

Results from the 2013-14 ABS Patient Experience Survey will be presented, with a focus on access and barriers to health care services in regional and remote areas of Australia. These results will highlight service usage and barriers to accessing health care such as cost and long waiting times faced by persons in regional and remote parts of Australia, and how these compare to major cities of Australia. Time series analysis will be provided where possible.

In addition, the presentation will highlight how the ABS Patient Experience Survey data can be utilised to inform evidence based policy within rural health care.