

Different places, different voices: same goal of better outcomes

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Country and city people are different. They live different lives, and face different challenges. One difference needn't exist. Flying Doctor research shows country people see doctors half as often as city people, specialists a third as often, and mental health services a fifth as often. The research links low primary care access to death rates in remote areas being thirty-five per cent higher than in cities, and life expectancy of country people two years shorter than for city people. Is it because we come from different geographic places, is it because we value our different voices that rapid improvements in rural health outcomes are so hard to achieve? Royal Flying Doctor Federation Board Chair Amanda Vanstone, a former Howard Government Cabinet Minister, will talk about how an argument for better health outcomes for country Australians can be made, and the need for a single voice when talking to governments.