



**Federal Government Budget submission
Queensland recurrent funding and New South Wales
expansion 2022-2026
www.heartofaustralia.com**



Contact:

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Level 1, 109 Honour Avenue, Chelmer, QLD 4068

Heart of Australia Federal Government Funding Proposal Queensland and New South Wales Expansion



OVERVIEW

Heart of Australia has demonstrated its ability to deliver medical specialists via its mobile service for people living in and around 32 towns in rural, regional and remote Queensland. Heart of Australia has shown it can meet all logistical challenges to ensure specialist health services are delivered to patients. In all, this has resulted in the delivery of in excess of 35,000 episodes of care to patients, saving more than 500 lives since starting in October 2014.

Patients, GPs and community members across regional Queensland have regularly provided positive comments about the service. This proposal presents the case to continue funding for the next four years in Queensland from 1 July 2022 and for expansion of one route in western New South Wales.

HEART OF AUSTRALIA SEEKS THE FOLLOWING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

1.FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING IN QUEENSLAND

Heart of Australia has delivered cardiologists and other medical specialists to the doorsteps of Australians located in far flung parts of Queensland, it has also provided needed support to the GPs operating in those isolated areas by providing education, professional support and advice. Founder Dr Rolf Gomes is a recognised thought leader in the delivery of specialist medicine in remote areas, with the service now supporting people living in and near 32 towns since the service started in October 2014

Funding sought: \$17 million for the financial years 2022-2026.

2. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Heart of Australia has extensively explored the possibility of expanding its mobile medical specialist service to support patients and GPs in regional, rural and remote New South Wales since early 2020. The proposal is to provide mobile medical specialists via Heart of Australia to the far west, north and southern parts of regional and remote NSW, based on the service delivery model of Queensland, which is tried and trusted. This would include the construction of a large-scale B-Double mobile specialist clinic earmarked for service in NSW (Estimated cost - \$2.5 million).

Funding sought for NSW: \$6 million for the financial years 2022-2026

TOTAL FUNDING SOUGHT OVER FOUR YEARS (QLD & NSW): \$23 million 2022-2026

QUEENSLAND AT A GLANCE

OVERALL SERVICES DELIVERED:

Specialists **and diagnostic medical equipment** are delivered to the doorstep of rural and remote communities of QLD monthly. This provides equitable access to health services to Australians living in farming and indigenous communities.

Specialist consultations include:

- Cardiology
- Psychology
- Gynaecology
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- Urology
- Neurology
- Geriatrics

Diagnostic equipment included:

- Cardiac stress testing – treadmills, ultrasound,
- ECG monitoring
- 24-hour heart rhythm monitoring
- Cardiac ultrasound
- Sleep apnoea testing and fitting of devices
- Respiratory function testing including gas transfer • 24-hour blood pressure monitoring
- Telehealth
- Colposcopy
- Botox therapy.

Commencing in 2022

- Mobile CT and X-ray services for the bush

THE CASE FOR RECURRENT FUNDING IN QUEENSLAND

Heart of Australia operates 5 mobile clinics (4 B-Double mobile specialist trucks and 1 smaller mobile clinic) servicing people living in or near 32 rural, regional and remote towns from the top to the bottom of Queensland. This includes a specialised B-Double mobile clinic containing a CT scanner and Xray which will bring mobile radiology services to people in the bush. The expansion of the service has proven it is a viable healthcare service with a proven track record of delivering specialist services and transportable health infrastructure to rural and remote communities through the \$12 million funding the Commonwealth Government announced in 2019.

The cost of building each mobile clinic is approximately \$2.5 million with operating costs of approximately \$2 million per annum per clinic. Heart of Australia relies on Commonwealth funding to deliver the service and some sponsorship and philanthropic funds to cover essential operating expenses (flight, wages, accommodation etc.).

The projected operating costs for running 5 mobile clinics in QLD extrapolated from the actual costs incurred in 2020 are shown in Table 1.



HEART OF AUSTRALIA - QLD BUDGET FOR ACTIVITY PERIOD

EXPENSES	2,020	2,021	2,022	2,023	2,024	2,025	2,026
Accountancy Fees	46,170	60,021	74,906	77,902	81,019	84,259	87,630
Advertising & Marketing	104,501	135,852	169,543	176,325	183,378	190,713	198,341
Audit Fees	2,200	2,860	3,569	3,712	3,861	4,015	4,176
Bank Charges	8,867	11,527	14,386	14,962	15,560	16,182	16,830
Bookkeeping	16,400	21,320	26,607	27,672	28,779	29,930	31,127
Cleaning	1,881	2,446	3,052	3,174	3,301	3,433	3,571
Computer Expenses	103,999	135,199	168,728	175,477	182,496	189,796	197,388
Consultancy Fees	103,166	134,116	167,377	174,072	181,035	188,277	195,808
Contract Work	402,094	522,722	652,357	678,451	705,589	733,813	763,165
Depreciation	529,425	688,252	858,938	893,296	929,028	966,189	1,004,836
Electricity	6,201	8,061	10,061	10,463	10,882	11,317	11,770
Entertainment - Gala Dinner	62,162	80,811	100,852	104,886	109,082	113,445	117,983
Entertainment	2,760	3,587	4,477	4,656	4,842	5,036	5,238
Filing Fees	347	451	563	585	609	633	659
Fines & Penalties	889	1,156	1,442	1,500	1,560	1,622	1,687
General Expenses	1,219	1,584	1,977	2,056	2,139	2,224	2,313
Hire of Plant & Equipment	6,347	8,250	10,297	10,708	11,137	11,582	12,046
Insurance	100,801	131,042	163,540	170,082	176,885	183,960	191,319
Interest Paid						0	
Westpac	2,177	2,830	3,532	3,673	3,820	3,973	4,131
ATO	307	399	498	518	538	560	582
BOQ Investec	31,817	41,363	51,621	53,685	55,833	58,066	60,389
Iqumulate Funding	6,151	7,996	9,979	10,378	10,793	11,225	11,674
Legal Costs	3,643	4,736	5,911	6,147	6,393	6,649	6,915
Low Cost Assets	677	881	1,099	1,143	1,189	1,236	1,286
Management Fees	470,909	612,182	764,003	794,563	826,346	859,399	893,775
Medical Supplies	65,069	84,590	105,568	109,790	114,182	118,749	123,499
Motor Vehicle Expenses	3,743	4,866	6,073	6,316	6,569	6,831	7,105
Postage	3,323	4,319	5,391	5,606	5,830	6,064	6,306
Printing & Stationary	11,583	15,058	18,792	19,544	20,325	21,138	21,984
Qualit Assurance	684	889	1,110	1,154	1,200	1,248	1,298
Rent	120,136	156,177	194,909	202,706	210,814	219,246	228,016
Reparis & Maintenance	9,852	12,808	15,984	16,623	17,288	17,980	18,699
Repairs & Maintenance - Trailer	72,724	94,541	117,987	122,707	127,615	132,720	138,028
Service Charges						0	
QCG - Sonographers	218,288	283,774	354,150	368,316	383,048	398,370	414,305
Staff Training & Welfare	19,097	24,827	30,984	32,223	33,512	34,852	36,247
Staff Amenities	3,092	4,019	5,016	5,217	5,425	5,642	5,868
Storage Fees	5,171	6,722	8,389	8,725	9,074	9,437	9,814
Subscriptions	5,620	7,306	9,118	9,483	9,862	10,257	10,667
Sperannuation	92,493	120,241	150,060	156,063	162,305	168,797	175,549
Super Contractors	1,558	2,025	2,528	2,629	2,734	2,843	2,957
Telephone	4,892	6,359	7,937	8,254	8,584	8,928	9,285
Trailer Registration Fees	8,571	11,142	13,905	14,461	15,040	15,641	16,267
Transcription Services	5,869	7,630	9,522	9,903	10,299	10,711	11,140
Travelling Expenses	313,770	407,901	509,061	529,423	550,600	572,624	595,529
Uniforms	3,671	4,772	5,955	6,193	6,441	6,699	6,967
Wages	1,014,283	1,318,568	1,645,572	1,711,395	1,779,851	1,851,045	1,925,087
	3,998,599	5,198,178	6,487,327	6,746,820	7,016,692	7,297,360	7,589,255
Fed Gov Funding	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,250,000	4,250,000	4,250,000	4,250,000
Shortfall (HOA Input)	1,401	-1,198,178	-2,487,327	-2,496,820	-2,766,692	-3,047,360	-3,339,255

Running Costs (Years 2023 - 2026) 28,650,127

Funding requested (Years 2023 - 2026) 17,000,000

HOA Input Year 2023 - 2026 (Funding Shortfall) 11,650,127

Notes:

2021 - Expenses rise by 1.25 * from previous year as the number of mobile clinics go from 3 to 4 (Fed Gov funded Northern route)

2022 - Expenses rise by 1.20 * from previous year as the number of mobile clinics go from 4 to 5 (Radiology CT and Xray clinic)

CPI Calculated at 4%

Table 1. HOA QLD projected operating costs – 2023 - 2026



STATE-OF-THE-ART: Inside Heart of Australia's B-Double mobile clinic HEART2.

KEY DELIVERABLES IN QUEENSLAND

Heart of Australia is the brainchild of Brisbane-based cardiologist and engineer Dr Rolf Gomes. The service has a reputation for quality service provision and reliability.

The service has been delivering care to the following towns: **Dalby, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, St George, Charleville, Roma, Emerald, Barcaldine, Winton, Longreach, Hughenden, Charters Towers, Moranbah, Cloncurry, Blackall, Middlemount, Biloela, Banana, Moura, Theodore, Childers, Quilpie, Springsure, Rolleston, Cooktown, Sarina, Proserpine, Ayr and Mareeba.** Palm Island and Weipa are static clinics.

Heart of Australia's specialities include: Cardiology, Endocrinology, Psychology, Gastroenterology, Gynaecology, Urology, Neurology and Geriatrics. Heart of Australia has saved more than 500 lives and delivered more than 35,000 episodes of care since October 2014.



QUEENSLAND FUNDING CONCLUSION

Heart of Australia is delivering on all its key performance indicators as a provider of quality mobile specialist medical services in regional, rural and remote Queensland. It is a service appreciated and valued by members of the community and presents a solid case for recurrent funding to allow people in regional, rural and remote Queensland to continue to receive a monthly medical service that is saving patients and the Government time and money.

NEW SOUTH WALES AT A GLANCE

PROPOSED NEW SOUTH WALES ROUTE

Heart of Australia seeks to provide its medical specialists through its mobile service model to support Australians living in rural, regional and remote New South Wales. Heart of Australia is looking to replicate its vital tried and trusted service to the people living in and near 10 regional towns in the west of the state. Heart of Australia aims to deliver its logistics, medical and management expertise gained in Queensland over nearly six years to the people living in the far-flung regions of New South Wales. In the past 12 months alone, 165 patients from Northern NSW have been referred to the Heart of Australia mobile clinics in Queensland, highlighting the willingness of GPs in regional NSW to refer patients to the service.

HEART OF AUSTRALIA PLANNED NSW ROUTE



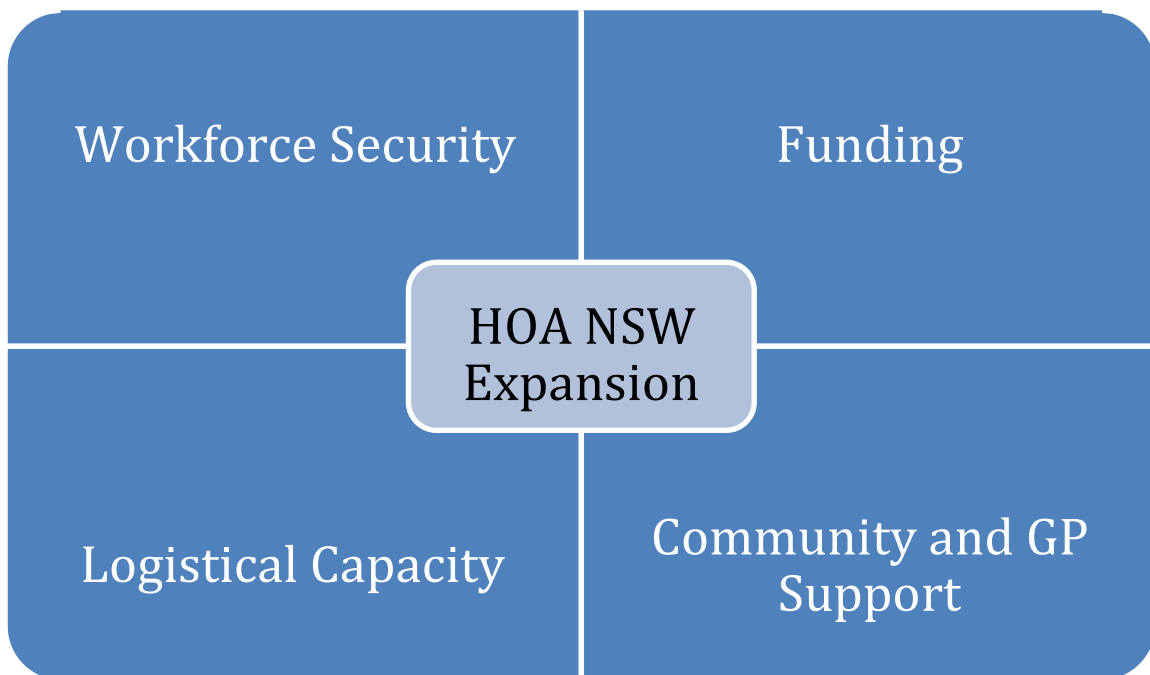
HEART OF AUSTRALIA POTENTIAL TOWNS TO BE SUPPORTED

Moree, Coonabrabran, Parkes, Armidale, Muswellbrook, Orange, Hilston, Wentworth, Broken Hill, Cobar, Bourke, Walgett and Nyngan are towns that could be serviced by Heart of Australia. The selected stops for the mobile specialist service will address unmet need for people in isolation.



PARTNERING TO EXPAND HEART OF AUSTRALIA SERVICES TO NEW SOUTH WALES

Heart of Australia (HOA) founder and CEO Dr Rolf Gomes has explored the possibility of expanding services to other states including New South Wales since early 2020. Heart of Australia has engaged the Federal Health Minister the Hon Greg Hunt, the NSW Health Minister the Hon Brad Hazzard and the NSW Department of Health to seek ways to have Heart of Australia deliver its mobile specialist medical services in rural NSW. Four main criteria have been identified in discussions. They are:



1. Workforce Security

Heart of Australia has received growing interest from local health organisations located in regional NSW to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Given the number of participating specialists in Queensland has grown from 3 to 23 over the past 5 years, Heart of Australia is of the view a similar outcome could be achieved in NSW, given the strong interest gained through the awareness of the service and its health outcomes in Queensland.

2. Logistical Capacity

Heart of Australia is extremely confident the model of specialist health services delivery can be replicated in New South Wales after more than seven successful years of operating the mobile specialist service in Queensland. Heart of Australia is confident it can meet any logistical challenges that may arise to ensure specialist health services are delivered to patients in rural and remote NSW.

3. GP and Community Support

The Queensland experience has demonstrated that GPs, patients and communities are highly supportive of a service which provides a tangible boost to local health delivery capacity in the form of specialists and diagnostic infrastructure. Heart of Australia's methodology of liaison and inclusion in the rollout of regional services has been extremely successful in embedding the service within all 32 communities where it has been operating. A similar approach of face-to-face consultation prior to and following the initiation of new services would be adopted in NSW to maximise stakeholder engagement.

Since 2014 we have seen over 12,000 patients and helped save more than 500 lives. (in rural, remote and regional Queensland)



Heart of Australia's existing and long-standing program partners highly value what their contribution has delivered. Many have pledged their support to assist the service to expand into NSW. Testimonials from private partners can be provided. HOA

transport partner PACCAR/Kenworth has pledged another fully maintained prime mover representing an investment of at least \$500,000. Similarly, other partners such as Bayer, Bridgestone, Toyota and others have indicated a willingness in principle to do more in New South Wales.

NOTE: The Federal Government funding would meet the shortfall in funds required to operate the service after it receives Medical Benefit Schedule (MBS) payments from seeing patients in rural, regional and remote parts of western NSW. Heart of Australia will continue to invest in building awareness through dedicated marketing, media and health promotion campaigns to ensure the Government and sponsors are seen to be associated with a solutions-focused service benefiting patients, clinicians and communities.

4. Funding for NSW

Heart of Australia seeks \$6 million over four years from the Federal Government to support the establishment and running costs of a mobile specialist clinic in NSW. The cost to build and fit-out the mobile clinic would be \$2.5 million with operating costs of approximately \$2 million per annum to operate a single mobile specialty clinic. The allocation of funds including HOA's cash and sponsorship contributions towards the construction and running of the service is shown in Table 1 below.

HEART OF AUSTRALIA NEW SOUTH WALES FUNDING				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Clinic construction				
State & Federal Government funding	\$2,500,000			
HOA - Prime Mover (Kenworth K200)	\$500,000			
HOA - Tyres and Rims (Bridgestone)	\$20,000			
Operational Funding				
State & Federal Government funding		\$1,166,667	\$1,166,667	\$1,166,667
HOA - Kenworth Servicing (Brown & Hurley)		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
HOA - Tyres (Bridgestone)		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
HOA - Support Vehicles (Toyota Landcruisers)		\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
HOA - Flights (Rex)		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
HOA - Data & internet (Telstra)		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
HOA - Cash contribution		\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$3,020,000	\$2,415,000	\$2,415,000	\$2,415,000

Table 1. Proposed NSW funds allocation

NSW CONCLUSION

Heart of Australia presents a compelling case for the Federal Government to fund the expansion of the mobile medical specialist service to regional, rural and remote New South Wales. The experiences of patients in Queensland shows the service is providing equitable medical specialist care to those in the Bush

compared to people living in metropolitan areas. Heart of Australia is confident it can replicate the quality of its healthcare service, reliability and commitment to patients it delivers in Queensland to the people living in remote New South Wales.



CONCLUSION FOR QUEENSLAND AND NSW FUNDING

Heart of Australia is more than meeting its commitment to the people of Queensland living in regional, rural and remote Queensland and respectfully requests the Commonwealth Government to extend its cost-effective funding for another four years over 2022-2026. Now is the time for people living in regional, rural and remote areas of western New South Wales to be offered the lifesaving and life enhancing healthcare service that is the mobile medical specialist service of Heart of Australia. This proposal gives decision makers the opportunity to provide the people of regional NSW similar access to mobile medical specialist care that is appreciated and valued by communities in regional Queensland. Heart of Australia seeks the opportunity to continue, broaden and deepen its partnership with the Federal Government to deliver quality medical specialist care in the regions of Queensland and expand into New South Wales.

Contact:

Adrian Dolahenty Heart of Australia government relations adviser
0438 656 175
Adrian.dolahenty@kurrajongsc.com
Level 1, 109 Honour Avenue, Chelmer, QLD 4068



HON DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MARANOA

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dmy', written over the word 'Minister'.

I have been contacted by Dr Rolf Gomes of the Heart of Australia in relation to further funding to ensure the 10 rural towns within the Maranoa electorate can continue to receive this vital service.

The Heart of Australia provides a regular opportunity for rural Australians to receive testing and screening for heart conditions, in addition to Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) therapy trials and blood pressure monitors.

The Heart of Australia has provided data on almost 2000 'occasions of service' in the Maranoa electorate, in addition to a positive patient feedback summary and further information about the economic and social benefits the current model provides over that of a hospital – please see attached. Of note is the existing model allows for high quality diagnostic infrastructure that is well maintained and regularly utilised by a team of specialists familiar with the equipment.

The report from Cardiac Services Clinical Committee states: "People in remote and very remote areas also claim 25–50 per cent fewer services than people in more urban areas". Without this vital service, constituents in these areas are at greater risk of cardiac failure.

Data released from the Heart Foundation shows deaths from heart disease are 60% higher in rural and remote areas of Australia, compared to metropolitan areas. Hospitalisations due to heart attack are double the metropolitan rates, and hospitalisations due to heart failure are 90% higher.

The seven million people living in rural and remote Australia access medical services at half the rate; medical specialists at a third the rate; and mental health and allied health professionals at a quarter the rate of those in metropolitan Australia.

One in four people living in regional and rural areas is suffering from cardiovascular disease compared with one in five in metropolitan areas. The further a person lives from a major city, the higher their chance of being hospitalised or dying from cardiovascular disease. These differences are largely preventable. They stem from unequal access to the conditions and opportunities needed for good heart health.

Accordingly, I seek your consideration in supporting Dr Gomes and his team for continued operation of the Heart of Australia to enhance the lives of rural and remote Australians in my Maranoa electorate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Littleproud', written over a horizontal line.

The Hon David Littleproud MP

1st December, 2021

DLP:mg

cc: The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP
Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Health



SENATOR AMANDA STOKER

Liberal National Party Senator for Queensland

22 December 2021

The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

CC: Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care

Dear Prime Minister,

pm,

I write to you in support of a funding proposal from Heart of Australia to improve medical services for patients across rural and regional Queensland.

The service has been delivering care to the following towns: Dalby, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, St George, Charleville, Roma, Emerald, Barcaldine, Winton, Longreach, Hughenden, Charters Towers, Moranbah, Cloncurry, Blackall, Middlemount, Biloela, Banana, Moura, Theodore, Childers, Quilpie, Springsure, Rolleston, Cooktown, Sarina, Proserpine, Ayr, Mareeba and Richmond with Palm Island and Weipa as static clinics.

Heart of Australia's specialities include: Cardiology, Endocrinology, Psychology, Gastroenterology, Gynaecology, Urology, Neurology and Geriatrics.

The organisation has saved over 400 lives and delivered more than 35,000 episodes of care in regional, rural and remote Queensland since 2014.

Heart of Australia specialists work out of state-of-the-art mobile specialist clinics and seeks \$17 million for the financial years 2022-2026.

This will allow the organisation to continue funding for the next four years in Queensland from 1 July 2022, and for expansion of one route in western New South Wales.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly difficult for rural and remote areas of Australia and continued funding will ensure services continue for country Australians who have limited capacity to travel to metropolitan hospital areas for treatments that are currently being provided by mobile services to meet the demand in these areas.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Amanda Stoker

Senator Amanda Stoker
LNP Senator for Queensland
Assistant Minister to the Attorney-General
Assistant Minister for Women
Assistant Minister for Industrial Relations

Attached: 2022-26 HOA QLD and NSW funding proposal and HOA Brief

Office: 2/3 Westmoreland Blvd, Springwood QLD 4127 Phone: (07) 3808 1035

Email: senator.stoker@aph.gov.au

PM, Heart of Australia have my complete support - their work is essential, especially in Qld. Best, Amanda



9th November 2021

**SUPPORT FOR HEART OF AUSTRALIA
FOR THEIR SUBMISSION FOR ONGOING FUNDING**

I would like to provide my in principle support to Heart of Australia to their submission to the Federal Government for ongoing funding.

Heart of Australia began in 2014 and in that time have provided care to more than 35,000 patients saving lives of many. This vital source of medical care visits regional and remote communities including locations in my electorate of Hinkler offering a range of specialist services where they are not readily available.

It is my understanding that this organisation is proposing to continue funding for the next four years in Queensland from 1 July 2022 and for expansion of one route in regional New South Wales.

I have had the privilege of seeing their mobile unit and the facilities it has to offer, and I would like to provide my in principle support for continuation of funding.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Pitt MP
Federal Member for Hinkler



Email: warren.entsch.mp@aph.gov.au Web: www.warrenentsch.com.au

Mr Greg Hunt
Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT, 2600

Wednesday, 15 December 2021

Dear Mr Hunt,

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of support to accompany Heart of Australia's funding request that is currently with your office.

I understand Heart of Australia is seeking \$17 million over four years (2022-2026) to continue its fantastic work throughout Queensland.

This builds on the \$12m in Commonwealth Government funding Heart of Australia received in 2019, that will soon expire.

I had the opportunity recently to travel to Cooktown to see first-hand the amazing work Heart of Australia does. I firmly believe its work can be deemed an essential service.

Heart of Australia has already demonstrated its ability to deliver medical specialists via its mobile service for people living in and around 32 towns in rural, regional, and remote Queensland.

This includes specialised B-Double mobile clinics containing a CT scanner and X-ray which brings mobile radiology services to people in regional and remote areas.

This is particularly important for those living in my vast electorate where it isn't as simple as just hopping into the car and ducking down the road to undertake what could essentially be a life-saving test or scan.

The expansion of the service has proven it is a viable healthcare service with a proven track record of delivering specialist services and transportable health infrastructure to rural and remote communities.

The cost of building each mobile clinic is approximately \$2.5 million with operating costs of approximately \$2 million per annum per clinic.

Electorate Office:

200 Mulgrave Road, Cairns, QLD, 4870
Phone: 07 4051 2220 Fax: 07 4031 1592

Parliament House:

Suite RG64, House of Representatives, Canberra, ACT, 2600
Phone: 02 6277 4803 Fax: 02 6277 2238

Thursday Island Office:

Douglas Street, Thursday Island, QLD, 4875
Phone: 07 4069 1393 Fax: 07 4069 1822

Papua New Guinea



Boigu

Saibai

Torres Strait Islands

Thursday Island

Horn Island

Bamaga

Weipa

Coen

Laura

Cooktown

Mossman

Port Douglas

Kuranda

Cairns

Leichhardt

First proclaimed:
1949

Named after:
Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig Leichhardt (1813-48), well known explorer and scientist

Coverage Area:
Leichhardt covers an area of approximately 148,988 sq km

From the Torres Strait Islands in the north (including Boigu, Dauan and Saibai which share a common boundary with PNG), to White Rock and Mount Sheridan in the south. The main towns include Aurukun, Bamaga, Cairns, Cooktown, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Kuranda, Lockhart River, Mossman, Pormpuraaw, Port Douglas, Thursday Island, Weipa, Daintree, Coen, Laura, New Mapoon, Old Mapoon, Seisia, Injinoo, Umagico, Napranum and Wugal Wugal.

Heart of Australia relies on Commonwealth Government funding to deliver the service and some sponsorship and philanthropic funds to cover essential operating expenses.

The service is currently supporting patients in Cooktown and Weipa, two major centres in my electorate of Leichhardt.

Heart of Australia has shown it can meet all logistical challenges to ensure specialist health services are delivered to patients.

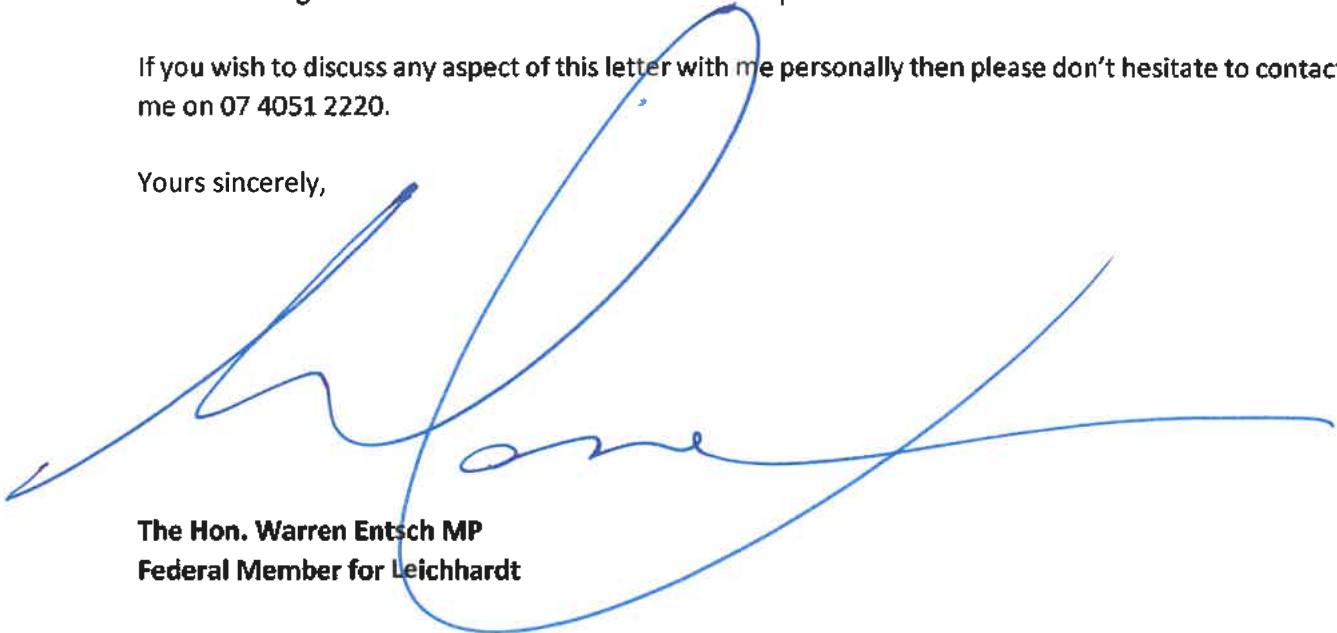
In all, this has resulted in the delivery of more than 35,000 episodes of care to patients, saving more than 500 lives since starting in October 2014.

Patients, GPs and community members across regional Queensland, including those in my electorate, have regularly provided positive comments about the service.

I sincerely hope you can find an allocation of money in the upcoming 2022 Federal Budget to ensure this life-saving and essential service can continue to operate.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter with me personally then please don't hesitate to contact me on 07 4051 2220.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon. Warren Entsch MP
Federal Member for Leichhardt

cc. The Hon. Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia
cc. The Hon. Dr David Gillespie – Minister for Regional Health

Electorate Office:

200 Mulgrave Road
Cairns, QLD, 4870
Phone: 07 4051 2220 Fax: 07 4031 1592

Parliament House:

PO Box 6022, House of Representatives
Canberra, ACT, 2600
Phone: 02 6277 4803 Fax: 02 6277 2238

Email: warren.entsch.mp@aph.gov.au

Thursday Island Office:

Douglas Street
Thursday Island, QLD, 4875
Phone: 07 4069 1393 Fax: 07 4069 1822

Web: www.warrenentsch.com.au



Reference: SL/LM



THE HON.
SUSSAN LEY MP
MEMBER FOR FARRER

23 June 2020

Mr Adrian Dolahenty
Government Relations
Heart of Australia
Suite 1, 38A Glenn Avenue
NORTHMEAD NSW 2152

~~Dear Adrian~~ *Dear Adrian*

Thanks for the update regarding the Heart of Australia mobile health service and the proposal to expand into western NSW.

You know how pleased I am that the Morrison Government provided \$12 million for the Heart of Australia's fantastic work in rural and remote areas in Queensland and I'm very supportive of their efforts to expand into NSW and hopefully into my electorate of Farrer.

When the COVID 19 restrictions are relaxed and visitors allowed into Parliament House, my offer to arrange a meeting for you with the Regional Health Minister the Hon Mark Coulton MP to progress the idea with him still stands. Just liaise with Jenny Howard, whom you know, at that time.

Thank you once again for the update and like you, I can't believe it's been over year since your visit to Albury and Griffith!

Yours sincerely

SUSSAN LEY MP

Member for Farrer



SENATOR PERIN DAVEY

Senator for New South Wales

4 January 2022

The Hon. Greg Hunt, MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: minister.hunt@health.gov.au

Dear Minister

I am writing to express my support for the expansion of the Heart of Australia program into Western New South Wales.

As you are aware, Heart of Australia is essentially a mobile cardiology specialist service. In Queensland they utilise three custom-designed trucks, staffed by specialist cardiologists, which travel to rural communities across Southern and Central Queensland taking referrals from local GPs.

Heart of Australia has identified gaps in specialist services across remote and regional Western New South Wales. Access to specialists in rural New South Wales is incomparable to major regional centres and many will forego specialist appointments because of the travel required.

This proven model of getting specialists to travel town-to-town and provide these potentially lifesaving services is something I strongly believe can and should be replicated in Western New South Wales.

I have been in contact with Heart of Australia Director Dr Rolf Gomes and Adrian Dolahenty of Kurrajong Strategic Counsel to discuss expanding their service to rural New South Wales.

I understand that Heart of Australia will be lodging its 2020-2026 pre-budget submission to Treasury in early January 2022.

As a former resident of regional Queensland, I have seen the Heart of Australia operations in action and know of the benefit it provides rural and remote communities otherwise isolated from specialist care.



SENATOR PERIN DAVEY

Senator for New South Wales

I fully support this proposal and will continue to actively advocate for funding to see this project come to fruition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Perin Davey', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Perin Davey
Senator for New South Wales

C.c. The Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP
Minister for Regional Health
Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment

The Hon. Michael McCormack MP

Federal Member for Riverina

Mr Adrian Dolahenty
Government Relations Adviser
Heart of Australia
Level 1
109 Honour Avenue
CHELMER QLD 4068

via email: adrian.dolahenty@kurrajongsc.com

Dear Mr Dolahenty

Thank you for your recent request for a letter of support for Heart of Australia's 2022 Budget submission.

Please find enclosed a letter of support which I trust will be assistance for the application for funding by Heart of Australia.

I wish you all the best with your application and I look forward to learning of the outcome of your funding bid.

Yours sincerely



Michael McCormack MP
Federal Member for Riverina
mm.amc.wga

22/12/2021

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The Hon. Michael McCormack MP

Federal Member for Riverina

THE NATIONALS for Regional Australia

To Whom It May Concern

I write in support of Heart of Australia and its Federal Government Budget submission for recurrent funding to support its ongoing work in Queensland and western New South Wales.

Heart of Australia provides a mobile health service to people living in rural, regional and remote parts of Queensland and is seeking to expand its reach into western New South Wales, which will benefit people of the Riverina electorate who live in Parkes.

I understand, through its important work, Heart of Australia has ensured medical specialists and cardiologists attend to the health needs of people who may not otherwise have adequate access to face-to-face consultations – an essential medical service.

Constituents living in the northern part of the Riverina electorate, into which Heart of Australia seeks to expand, including Forbes, Parkes and the smaller villages connected to these larger towns, will certainly welcome the increase in health services available. These people live in semi-isolated areas with less access to regular and sophisticated medical treatment options and deserve access to such services.

I commend Heart of Australia's Budget submission for serious consideration and have no hesitation in providing my support for this funding application.

Yours sincerely



Michael McCormack MP

Federal Member for Riverina

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22/12/2021

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jw/mc

The Hon Mark Coulton MP

Federal Member for Parkes

13 December 2021

Adrian Dolahenty
Government Relations
Heart of Australia
Adrian.Dolahenty@kurrajongsc.com

Dear Adrian

As the Federal Member for Parkes, I write in support of the submission by Heart of Australia for funding to expand their specialist services to rural and remote areas of NSW. Proposed locations in my electorate include Moree, Walgett, Nyngan, Broken Hill, Coonabarabran, Cobar and Bourke. Many of my constituents in these areas must currently travel great distances for specialist medical tests and care.

Since its commencement in 2014, Heart of Australia has been delivering mobile medical specialists to patients living in and around 32 towns in rural and remote Queensland. Specialist services include cardiology, psychology, gynaecology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, urology, neurology and geriatrics. Their current mobile services include ECG, cardiac ultrasound, sleep apnoea testing /fitting, respiratory function testing, colposcopy, telehealth and botox therapy. In 2022 the service will also include mobile CT and xray services.

In the past 24 months, 165 patients from northern NSW have been referred to the Heart of Australia mobile clinics in Queensland, demonstrating the support of regional GPs to refer to this service.

I offer my full support for the application, to improve early diagnosis and positive health outcomes for my constituents.

Yours sincerely

Mark Coulton

Email mark.coulton.mp@aph.gov.au

Website www.markcoulton.com.au

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Michelle **LANDRY** MP

Federal Member for Capricornia
Working hard for Capricornia



Ref: 202111015

15th November 2021

The Hon. Greg Hunt
Minister for Health and Aged Care

Dear Minister Hunt,

I am pleased to write to you in support of Heart of Australia (HOA) in their application for recurrent Federal Government Funding.

Heart of Australia have a proven track record in delivering health services to regional and remote Australia. With fully customized road trains, fitted out as specialist medical clinics Heart of Australia (HOA) provide heart health services to communities across Queensland including Dalby, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, St George, Charleville, Roma, Emerald, Barcaldine, Longreach, Hughenden, Charters Towers, Moranbah, Cloncurry, Blackall and Quilpie.

Since becoming operational in 2014 HOA have treated thousands of patients, saved over 400 lives and delivered 35,000 instances of care to some of the most marginalised and in need people of Queensland.

I have seen and experienced the wonderful work HOA do in remote and regional Queensland and I believe their unique service delivery model is an invaluable asset and very worthwhile recipient of recurrent Federal Government Funding.

Kind regards,

Michelle Landry MP
Federal Member for Capricornia



Rockhampton: 71-73 Denham Street (PO Box 1919) Rockhampton QLD 4700 (07) 4922 6604

Sarina: Shop 8, Sarina Beach Shopping Centre, 13 Sarina Beach Road, Sarina QLD 4737 (07) 4943 2722

www.michellelandry.com.au MichelleLandryMP michelle.landry.mp@aph.gov.au



SENATOR SUSAN McDONALD
LNP SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND
SPECIAL ENVOY FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Minister of Health and Aged Care
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

SUPPORT FOR HEART OF AUSTRALIA FUNDING 2022-2026

I write to support the submission made by Heart of Australia for recurring funding from 2022 to 2026, and in principle, support for the expansion of specialist medical services into remote and regional NSW.

The \$12 million of Commonwealth funding that Heart of Australia received in 2019 was essential and demonstrated the importance of viable transportable health infrastructure (i.e. medical clinics on a B-Double road trains) to deliver reliable medical services to people living in and around 32 towns in rural, regional and remote Queensland.

Since 2014, the Heart of Australia team has conducted 35,000 episodes of care to patients and saving more than 500 lives in the bush. Without Heart of Australia, these communities have no access the specialist equipment for tests and scans and would require a dedicated trip to the nearest city.

The current funding is due to expire in 2022 and Heart of Australia is seeking \$17 million in recurring funding over 4 years (2022 -2026), which along with sponsorship and generous philanthropic funds will continue to provide these essential services throughout Queensland. In the past 24 months, 165 patients from northern NSW have been referred to the Heart of Australia mobile clinics in Queensland. In this Federal Budget, Heart of Australia is also seeking \$6 million in Federal Government funding to expand the mobile medical specialist service to regional, rural, and remote New South Wales.

The experiences of patients in Queensland shows the Heart of Australia is able to provide an equitable level of medical specialist care for those in the bush that compares to the standard received by people living in metropolitan areas.

I am a strong supporter of the work that Heart of Australia does for our regional and rural communities and am more than pleased to give my support for additional and ongoing funding to continue to provide these vital services to our communities.

Yours sincerely



Senator Susan McDonald

Ref: 2112SMPM

31 / 12 / 2021

Cc: **The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister**



PHILLIP THOMPSON OAM MP

Federal Member for Herbert

Heart of Australia
C/o Dr Rolf Gomes – Founder
Level 1, 109 Honour Avenue
Chelmer QLD 4068

Via email – adrian.dolahenty@kurrajongsc.com

17 December 2021

To whom it may concern,

Letter of Support – Heart of Australia

As the Federal Member for Herbert, I would like to express my support for Heart of Australia and their dedication to providing quality healthcare services for individuals in rural, regional and remote Queensland.

Heart of Australia is a program wholly focussed on providing frontline specialist medical service delivery through monthly specialist investigation and treatment clinics to patients living in and around rural, regional and remote communities in Queensland. I have been advised that these specialist services to communities are delivered on four custom-designed trucks, which have been modified to mimic a portable medical clinic.

Heart of Australia have highlighted their intention to expand their mobile medical specialist services to Palm Island within my electorate of Herbert, which is an excellent initiative given Palm Island's remote location and vulnerable patient base.

As you can appreciate, the services offered by Heart of Australia effectively address the logistical challenges associated with access to healthcare in rural and remote communities and ensures that specialist health services are delivered to patients regardless of their location in Australia.

I would like to reiterate my support for Heart of Australia and their dedication to providing quality specialist health services in my electorate of Herbert and Australia and wish them the very best of luck in all their future endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Phillip Thompson'.

Phillip Thompson OAM, MP
Federal Member for Herbert



Hon Bob Katter MP

Federal Member for Kennedy

23 December 2021

To Whom It May Concern

Re; Federal Government Budget submission Queensland recurrent funding and New South Wales expansion 2022-2026

We write today to request support for recurrent Federal funding to ensure the mobile medical specialist service supports patients in the future living in and near several towns in the Federal electorate of Kennedy, to provide the best chance of continuing the service.

Heart of Australia has demonstrated its ability to deliver medical specialists via its mobile service for people living in and around 32 towns in rural, regional and remote Queensland. Heart of Australia has shown it can meet all logistical challenges to ensure specialist health services are delivered to patients. In all, this has resulted in the delivery of in excess of 35,000 episodes of care to patients, saving more than 500 lives since starting in October 2014. Patients, GPs and community members across regional Queensland have regularly provided positive comments about the service. This proposal presents the case to continue funding for the next four years in Queensland from 1 July 2022 and for expansion of one route in western New South Wales.

Heart of Australia has shown it can meet all logistical challenges to ensure specialist health services are delivered to patients.

Patients, GPs and community members across regional Queensland have regularly provided positive comments about the service. This proposal presents the case to continue funding for the next four years in Queensland from 1 July 2022 and for expansion of one route in western New South Wales.

Heart of Australia is looking to break the barriers to participation by bringing the clinical trials directly to the rural and regional patients as a complementary program to their regular Heart Truck clinics. This service saves the lives of those in the bush who would not otherwise access heart related services. It's a fact, you are twice as likely to die of heart issues if you live in the bush.

We have no hesitation in offering our support to Heart of Australia in support of an indisputably required service, in their application for ongoing funding.

Yours sincerely

Hon Bob Katter MP
Federal Member for Kennedy

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