



NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH
ALLIANCE INC.

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‘Keep delivering to regional Australia - day after day’

The people of rural, regional and remote Australia will have been delighted to hear Prime Minister Julia Gillard today commit to closing the health, telecommunications and education divides between the places in which they live and the nation’s major cities.

Jenny May, Chair of the National Rural Health Alliance, said today’s evidence of bipartisan support for a special package of measures for regional Australia bodes well for the future.

“Following the judgment made by voters at the election, the four independents and the Greens have led a process resulting in what should be the most regional friendly government for many years,” Dr May said.

“All of us who live and work in the bush will strive to hold the Prime Minister to her commitment to ‘keep delivering to regional Australia day after day’.

“A very positive start has been made with Prime Minister Gillard’s strong focus on equity in education for country people, and commitment to priority roll-out of broadband in regional areas at the same wholesale price as in the major cities.”

The Alliance is also interested in the special plans for investment in infrastructure – including, but not limited to, investment for health and hospitals.

“We’ll wait and see further details about what exactly is involved,” Dr May said. “But giving preferential treatment to regional areas in order to provide equity to people in those areas is long overdue and a very welcome principle.”

The Alliance will continue to work with all members of Parliament to help address the quality of life and health challenges facing rural and regional communities.

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