



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Urgent attention needed to give Doctors and Country Communities certainty of service – Windsor**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has called on the Federal Government to give urgent attention to giving doctors and country communities certainty of service or face losing more country doctors following the collapse of United Medical Protection (UMP) insurers.

“I have already been approached by one doctor as to whether he can still provide service to the community as a consequence of his being insured through UMP,” Mr Windsor said.

A NSW Summit on the Rural Doctors Shortage was held in Tamworth less than a fortnight ago which focussed on solutions to the lack of numbers of country doctors.

“There are enough factors affecting this shortage of trained people getting into the country without the basic underlying need of insurance being lost through the collapse of UMP,” Mr Windsor said.

Of the Resolutions passed at the Summit, two related to Indemnity Insurance. One resolution passed was “that the State and Commonwealth Governments consider national registration and indemnity insurance for doctors, nurses and allied health workers.

“This Resolution was supported by professional and community representatives and it needs to be put into place quickly by the State and Federal Governments.

The collapse of UMP will now force these two tiers of Governments to act or face an even bigger Rural Doctor shortage.

This was a key resolution of the Summit as without insurance being available to doctors, it won't matter what their qualifications are, they just won't be able to practice,” Mr Windsor said.

“An interim solution is required from Government and I would hope that the Prime Minister is already into developing that solution,” Mr Windsor concluded.

**Further information from Tony Windsor on 0427 668868**