



FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

MEDIA RELEASE

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SCRAP THE CAP AND GIVE US DOCTORS

HEALTH Minister Nicola Roxon must scrap the cap on clinical training places for doctors in hospitals and boost the number of university places immediately, Family First Leader Steve Fielding said today.

“Family First has told the Minister it’s time to lift the cap. I’ve asked Ms Roxon how her government can stand by and hear the suffering of patients and doctors struggling to cope and do nothing.

“We are diabolically short of doctors and the doctors we do have in the system are under enormous stress working intolerable hours,” Senator Fielding said.

“The Federal Government has the power to scrap the cap on training places in hospitals and provide more money to increase the number of medical places at universities and I urge the Health Minister to take this action.

“Doctors are on the frontline. They see first hand the problems with the system. So when they tell us that mental health, obesity and binge drinking are growing epidemics, that 80% of hospitals can’t meet demand, that 45,000 patients are left waiting on trolleys because there is no one to attend to them, then I think the Federal Government should not just be listening but doing something about it,” Senator Fielding said.

“It’s crazy that in Victoria, we have a cap in place that stops thousands of our best and brightest kids from studying medicine. It’s imperative we get more doctors and that’s why Family First is calling for 200 additional doctors to be trained.”

FAST FACTS

- Family First proposes abolishing HECS debts for medical students who commit to work in indigenous communities for a minimum of 2 years, the scheme capped at 250 doctors.
- Family First wants to cut the reliance on overseas doctors who could be better served in their own needy communities with those places instead offered to Australian doctors.

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