

Hi Commissioners, thanks for listening to me in Sydney this week. I found the day quite fascinating.

I have thought long and hard about what I think would work outside the city.

I think I have reached the same conclusions as you have. Service Types that currently utilise paid staff – personal care, domestic assistance (including repetitive maintenance like lawn mowing and assistance with firewood, home maintenance and mods, nursing and allied health could probably all work well under the ‘market’ model – albeit that the costs of travel would need to be built into the formula.

Volunteer based services such as Community transport, meals, centre based day care would need to be block funded to survive.

Having said that I think I’d like to reiterate my concerns about access to those volunteer based services outside of villages and townships. Maybe some mix of these could also be provided under subsidised entitlement and purchased from the volunteer org. (I hope that makes sense). If the vol org had a clearly delineated area of coverage this might just work.

Community transport by volunteers over 100s of kilometres would remain an issue. This is almost entirely health related and has taken away from the original role of assisting people to access their local community.

HACC CT has picked up the health transport by default. I understand that it would be hugely expensive to have paid workers providing a ‘taxi’ service over 100s of km but it really is a big ask for volunteers.

I want to be quite clear that these are simply my views on the matter not the orgs or the regions. As you can probably tell by the format etc. I’ve just given you my stream of consciousness!

I look forward to the Final Report. Congratulations on your work to date.

Cheers,
Deb Pugh