

MEDIA RELEASE

RUTH FORREST MLC
PO BOX 104
WYNYARD TAS 7325
TEL: 03 6443 8600
FAX: 03 6443 8603

DOCTOR'S VISA DILEMA

Wynyard Doctor Chris Kear is facing an immigration nightmare. Dr Kear has been working in Wynyard as a GP for the past two years after moving out here from his home country, England. Dr Kear is now facing the reality of the Australia Immigration Department's fine print. Because Dr Kear has now turned 45 years old, it would appear the Australian Immigration Department no longer values his services, because of his "age".

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest said "Dr Kear, is a much loved and respected family Dr by all those in the Wynyard community and we cannot and will not lose him".

"What is the point in having a Federal Member based in Braddon, who in his own words, states that there is not an issue with the Immigration Department, that they are doing a good job – we might as well have Mickey Mouse doing his job" said Ms Forrest.

"Mark Baker and the Immigration Department must find away to retain Dr Kear for the sake of this community, exceptional circumstances do exists when doctors are in such short supply" said the Member for Murchison.

"To deny Dr Kear the right to permanent residency in Tasmania purely because of his age is discrimination and highlights the short comings in our immigration policies" enforced Ms Forrest.

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For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.

Dr Kear can be contacted at the Wynyard Medical Surgery on 03 64422201 and is available and willing to speak with the media.