I have been advised by AMA president that I should contact you to ask for assistance in the matter of the State of Victoria actively blocking medical services in Mallacoota.

My role has been as a locum GP who arrived the day prior to the fires. I have spent the last 14 days working logistics or coordinating staff and supplies. On Friday issued a directive that no authorisation would be given to moving personal or supplies for private entities which included the medical clinic.

Since the disaster, I have had to arrange, singlehandedly, the movement of volenteers, equipment and medical supplies. There has not only been no assistance, but the redicuoouse chain of asking for movement of staff has left us frustrated and requiring to charter our own planes to bring them in.

On the ground the Health Commander and FEMO are generally supportive (at least the most recent ones are) but they are unable to authrise transfers and are required to take the request to the ICCC, who then either doesnt give an answer or says no - leaving us stranded for transport for essential supplies and services.

RWAV and the PHN were taked in providing assistance - nothing has been received and the last email and contact was "its business as usual" - well it might be for them but it is not for the people of Mallacoota.

I would ask that you contact me via mobile - as soon as possible to try and resolve these issues that the Federal Ministers have not even been able to resolve in the last 2 weeks.

Regard
Dr April Armstrong
Currently @ Mallacoota Medical Centre