## Presentation title:

## No Postcode Untouched 2017: Tackling the disproportionate impact of stroke across rural and regional Australia

1. **Abstract** (max. 300 words):
2. This year, Australians will suffer more than 56,000 strokes. This equates to one stroke every nine minutes. By 2050, without action, this number will increase 132,500 with one stroke every four minutes. Many of these strokes will be experienced by people living in regional Australia.
3. Using data compiled and analysed by Deloitte Access Economics, the No Postcode Untouched 2017 Report by the Stroke Foundation reveals the size of the stroke challenge across Australia. It include estimates of the number of stroke survivors, incidence of stroke as well as those living with key stroke risk factors. It shows where stroke survivor support is most urgent and where future stroke hotspots are located to enable better planning and coordination of services.
4. The results show that burden of stroke disproportionately affects those living in rural and regional areas. Twelve of the country’s top 20 hotspots for stroke incidence are in regional Australia and people living in country areas are 19% more likely to suffer a stroke than those living in metropolitan areas.
5. The Report also discusses recent advances in time critical stroke treatments and provides a roadmap for targeted action to improve outcomes for regional and remote patients.
6. A national action plan is needed to address the prevention and treatment of stroke including:

* A national campaign is needed to ensure every Australian household has someone who knows FAST - the signs of stroke and to call 000.
* A nationally coordinated telemedicine network to break down the barriers to acute stroke treatment in regional Australia.
* Ensuring all stroke patients have access to stroke unit care, and spend enough time on the stroke unit to receive the services and support they need after stroke.