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Yesterday I spent my day in lockdown in Melbourne focused on 'Law, Lawyers, Justice: Regional Rural and Remote' – an online ANU legal practice masters course with a new (Covid-19 induced) LLB/JD offering. I 'Slacked', 'Zoomed' and used different cloud-based servers for different workplaces and projects. I did some pro bono work 'in' the Kimberley. I read submissions to a parliamentary inquiry which were effectively about the spatial failure of child protection in regional, rural and remote Western Australia. I thought about how 'rurality' is used systemically in Australia to enculturate people in RRR areas and city folk - to have lower expectations of law in the RRR. I thought about this panel and connecting my perspectives about crisis and injustice in the RRR to 'talent retention and new ways of practising law in regional areas.'

My background includes being a practising lawyer, legal academic, a legal policy and legal service strengthening consultant. I've held senior executive positions in Legal Aid Commissions, been a tribunal member, registrar and led national NGOs. The RRR has flavoured my work since the early 1990's. I grew up in rural NSW, in towns with names that can que thinking about the nature of legality.