



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health

3 August 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

Call for submissions

Committee to look into solutions to improve staffing, workplace culture and funding for health services in regional NSW

Have health services in remote, rural and regional areas improved over the past year? What is the government doing to strengthen the regional health workforce, and ensure that health services in remote, rural and regional areas receive appropriate funding?

The Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health has adopted an inquiry that will examine how recommendations made in a [2022 Legislative Council \(LC\) committee inquiry](#) are being carried out. The inquiry has a particular focus on recent government actions to address staff recruitment and retention, workplace culture, and funding for agencies, programs and incentives.

The Select Committee has adopted this inquiry as a first step to oversee the results of the LC committee recommendations over the next two years. The Committee is now calling for submissions from stakeholders and the general public.

Committee Chair, Dr Joe McGirr MP, said: "Improvements to the regional health workforce and funding for services and programs are critical to address the many poor outcomes that patients are experiencing in remote, rural and regional health services across the state.

"The Committee wants to know what progress has been made by the government and NSW Health in implementing the recommendations since last year's inquiry, and any challenges that have been experienced as part of this process," Dr McGirr said. "If you or your organisation are affected by the proposed reforms, or have suggestions in regard to improving the implementation of the original recommendations, we would love to hear your views."

"The 2022 Council inquiry made 44 recommendations, and the government proposed [numerous actions to implement these recommendations](#)," Dr McGirr said. "Our Committee's role is to ensure that the government is kept to its word, and that health outcomes are improved for people across regional NSW."

Submissions close on Friday 22 September 2023. Stakeholders are advised that the Committee is focussed on the implementation of the LC Portfolio Committee No. 2 recommendations, and is not seeking further submissions that outline health outcomes and access to hospitals and health services in regional NSW.

Full terms of reference for the inquiry are available on the [Committee's website](#).

Media contact: Dr Joe McGirr MP, Committee Chair, (02) 6921 1622

