



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health

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MEDIA RELEASE

Committee publishes third and final report on health reform in remote, rural and regional NSW

Have the last two years of health reform resulted in meaningful change for the many people living in remote, rural and regional communities in NSW? A recently published report found that these communities continue to face significant challenges in accessing health services, with current governance arrangements between the state and federal governments failing to address challenges in the delivery of rural and remote primary care.

The third and final report of the Legislative Assembly's Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health was tabled this week. The report focuses specifically on areas of health reform that require collaboration between the state and federal governments, as well as government consultation with remote, rural and regional communities.

"Across the Committee's three inquiries, we've found that the progress reported by NSW Health continues to be at odds with what communities and health workers are experiencing on the ground," said Committee Chair Dr McGirr. "There is a clear need for ongoing accountability measures to address the persistent issues that we continue to see in relation to remote, rural and regional health."

The report sets out a recommended pathway for reform, including key priorities and next steps to ensure continued oversight of remote, rural and regional health needs. These include:

- the establishment of an independent NSW Remote, Rural and Regional Health Commissioner that can oversee NSW Health's implementation of reforms
- funding and implementation of the health precinct model
- shared governance arrangements between Local Health Districts and Primary Health Networks to support effective collaboration, information sharing and joint planning at the local level
- monitoring mechanisms, including continued reporting to NSW Parliament every six months on the progress of recommendations and additional performance audits in relation to key priority areas

The full report is available on the [Committee's website](#).

The Committee was established two years ago to monitor the implementation of recommendations handed down in a landmark [2022 Legislative Council report](#). The report made 44 recommendations for rural and regional health reform, which this Committee has examined over the course of three inquiries. The Committee's first report focused on workforce, workplace culture and funding in the regional health system. Its second report examined the delivery of specific health services and specialist care in remote, rural and regional NSW.

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