

**Submission
No 12**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE No. 2
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE DELIVERY OF SPECIFIC HEALTH
SERVICES AND SPECIALIST CARE IN REMOTE, RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW**

Organisation: Australasian College of Paramedicine

Date Received: 16 April 2024

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Parliament of New South Wales
Legislative Assembly
Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health
Via Parliament of NSW inquiry submission platform: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Select Committee,

Submission – Inquiry into the implementation of Portfolio Committee No. 2 recommendations relating to the delivery of specific health services and specialist care in remote, rural and regional NSW

Thank you for your consideration of this submission from the Australasian College of Paramedicine (the College).

About the College

The College is the peak professional body representing and supporting paramedics and student paramedics across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand since 1973. The College champions the unique role of paramedics in emergency, urgent and primary care, driving a connected, and multidisciplinary approach to high-quality healthcare in all communities.

The College is future-focused and committed to enhancing patient-centred care through sustainable initiatives, sound policy and legislation, and models of care that utilise and empower paramedics to work to their capabilities particularly in rural and remote areas where healthcare challenges are heightened.

Regarding this inquiry, thus far, the College has provided two submissions to the Select Committee urging for broader utilisation of the paramedic workforce across rural and remote areas to improve person-centred care and to-date NSW Health has not consulted with the College on recommendations made by the Select Committee.

Response to ToR

1b) The delivery of specific health services and specialist care in remote, rural and regional New South Wales, including; Patient transport and paramedicine (Recommendations 3, 28 and 29).

To meaningfully address all the points in recommendation 29, a dedicated effort is needed within NSW Health to engage with the College to achieve broader utilisation and integration of the paramedicine workforce across innovative models of care. To continue relying on the jurisdictional ambulance service as the only source of a relationship to the paramedicine workforce perpetuates a narrow understanding of the profession and denies the paramedicine workforce its full potential to the detriment of the regional and rural population and healthcare workforce.

As well, the College has repeatedly called for the appointment of a Chief Paramedic Officer within the NSW Ministry of Health to ensure it is receiving the best policy advice, professional leadership, and workforce opportunity for the paramedic profession for the benefit of person-centred care across rural and remote NSW. Again, we strongly recommend the appointment of this integral role.