

**Submission
No 6**

HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT (SPLITTING OF THE HUNTER NEW ENGLAND HEALTH DISTRICT) BILL 2025

Name: Ms Carol Sparks

Date Received: 14 March 2025

Dear Members of Parliament,

A bit about my experience, I have been a registered Nurse since 1970.

I live in a rural and remote area of Glen Innes Severn Local government area and have helped out many people with medical and physical problems over the years (still do).

I have transported many people with injuries and Children babies to our local Hospital. Glen Innes.

I have worked in Midwifery and Aged Care specializing in infection control and footcare. I am currently still registered but not working as a registered Nurse mainly because I am Deputy Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council and am concentrating on that job,

My heart goes out to the community, we have watched our hospital slowly decline in services over the years and finally now Council has approved an application by a local business to provide a CT Scanner in Glen Innes, this is something that I have been lobbying for, for many years. So very excited for the community who has been made to travel many distances whilst suffering various painful conditions for that service.

However Our local Government area has a low population rate now and into the future, this is not helped by the poor Midwifery services that women having babies are now faced with, Midwives are retiring and training is not focused on or supported in our Health system. So women have to travel to Armidale and Tamworth or further afield to have their babies safely.

Hunter New England Health has deliberately ignored or chosen not to speak honestly about their lack of support to our Local Doctors and Nurses. We are under an antiquated system that does not include our local GPs who are offered very poor remuneration for their callouts in emergency situations. Locum Doctors are paid exorbitant fees for their fly in fly out work, valuable but not sustainable, and that is costing everyone I believe the AMA needs to wake up, what are they doing about an obvious breakdown under their watch...

Regions are crying out for adequate and fair healthcare, It might be a good idea to split the Hunter New England however I think the Federal government should step in and step up to modernise regionalise and supervise the whole system.

Carol Sparks