

**Submission
No 8**

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 15 March 2025

Partially
Confidential

I work as a registered nurse in [REDACTED]. I was born and raised in [REDACTED], NSW and as a child used to get quite ill with respiratory problems. [REDACTED] hospital was always known as where you would go if things got really bad.

Time passed and I grew up, moved away and had a family. Eventually I returned to the New England, and was excited to work in [REDACTED]. I was so disappointed to see how eroded the rural referral hospital had become. Minimal specialists, no ICU, Locum doctors in the ED. The smaller hospitals in the area are faring even worse!

In my current specialty-community palliative care, I have concerns that our models of care are being developed and distributed from out of Newcastle. There seems to be no understanding of the needs and concerns of rural and regional patients and families.

I believe the current Hunter New England health district disadvantages the rural hospitals in the district. Returning to the previous model of the New England being separate would allow these regions to attract specialists, doctors and fund their hospitals appropriately. Policies and procedures would be better suited to rural and remote needs, and communities would benefit from a more robust health system that can meet their needs locally.