

**Submission  
No 16**

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

**Organisation:** Gunnedah Hospital Branch NSWNMA

**Date Received:** 26 March 2025

The Gunnedah District Hospital Branch of the NSWNMA believe that splitting the Hunter New England Health district would severely impact the services of the hospitals in the New England Regions. The communities in this area are under serviced by GPs, with patients waiting months to see GP or attend the Emergency Department at their local Hospital, putting pressure on already busy and understaffed Emergency Departments. Emergency Departments at these hospitals are having to rely on locum Emergency Department doctors or after hours using, a video calling system for online Doctors to see patients. Most of the time these patients are kept in the department overnight to be seen by the locum doctor the next morning because the online doctor is reluctant to send them home, as the consultation has limitations and is not thorough enough.

We believe that our communities deserve better medical care from NSW Health and with money not being directed to recruitment and retention of staff at our hospitals compared to what the larger centres such as Newcastle would receive is vastly unfair to our community.

Government should consider the affect this decision will have on the smaller district hospitals within our region and work more to recruit and retain Doctors and Nurses to the region.