

**Submission
No 20**

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 March 2025

Partially
Confidential

This is not a life and death story, but it does illustrate the divide between country and city medical facilities, the lack of understanding of city-based staff and the inconvenience of needing to access medical help in another centre.

We lived in Wee Waa for 18 months. 15 year old grandson was visiting from Armidale. Two days before Christmas (2024) he had an accident playing barefoot soccer with his cousins, and his little toe was bent back and the skin all split open.

We took him to Wee Waa hospital, after phoning the doctor's surgery and finding they had no time to see him that day. There was a nurse on duty at the hospital. That was all the medical aid available for the whole of the town! The nurse was very kind and efficient, but warned us that she wasn't qualified to do stitches, if that's what he needed. She numbed his toe to relieve the pain, and cleaned his foot up. Then she wheeled in a trolley with a screen, with a doctor ready to help. He heard our summary of the event and the injury . He was obviously in a big city and had no idea about tiny country towns. He asked the nurse when x-rays would be available. Answer is they're not ! She said they might be available 40km away in the next town, depending on availability of staff. The doctor then asked if there was anywhere local. Her answer was: "That is local!" The doctor in the city hospital knew nothing about facilities in the country and possibly also knew little about geography.

On the doctor's advice, the nurse was able to glue up the split skin.