

**Submission
No 51**

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 15 April 2025

Partially
Confidential

In November 2023, i fell at [REDACTED] where i was working. An ambulance was called and i was taken to Wee Waa hospital, in severe pain. After approximately an hour, i was seen by telehealth. The doctor asked me about previous back problems. When i told him i had, had back problems for over a decade he told me to take pain killers and the pain should go away in about 24 hours. At no point did he ask the nurses to put me on my side and indicate where the pain was coming from.

I went home and the pain did disappear in 24 hours. 6 months later, i discovered blood in my urine. I attended my local GP and following tests, a large tumour was discovered in the ureter tube between my left kidney and bladder. When i saw the cancer specialist in Tamworth he informed me the tumour would have been growing for over 12 months, and the probable cause of my fall and pain in the previous November, had been the tumour sealing the tube and causing back flow of urine into my kidney.

Had i been referred for further testing, my cancer would have been discovered earlier. The specialist gave me 2 choices. I could wait 4 months to have surgery in a public hospital or 3 weeks in a private. At this point my specialist was not optimistic of my chances of survival. So I chose to pay a significant amount and opted to have surgery in Tamar private.