

**Supplementary
Submission
No 51a**

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 15 April 2025

Partially
Confidential

Our 4 children were born in Wee Waa hospital, during a time when we had a maternity ward. That has not been the case for my grandchildren. One grandchild was born on the side of the road, between Wee Waa and Narrabri, in 2022. There was no point going to the Wee Waa hospital, because they would have just called the ambulance and the same thing would have happened.

My granddaughter was born in Tamworth hospital, after her parents endured a protracted journey. My daughter in law was to have the baby in Gunnedah hospital under her OB, however when labour started, and they contacted Gunnedah, they were informed that theatre was closed and to drive from Wee Waa to Moree. Upon arrival in Moree, my son and daughter in law were told their theatre was closed aswell. My daughter in law was placed in an air ambulance and taken to Tamworth. My son had to drive to Tamworth. Which is 275km away. He arrived just minutes before his daughter was born. My daughter in law was traumatised by the thought of delivering the baby without her husband or family present. Because of the overload of the maternity ward in Tamworth, she was discharged less then 24 hours later. There was no offer of being admitted to another hospital closer to home.

Another grandson was born in Narrabri hospital in 2024. He had a normal birth, however my daughter had been warned on his due date that she needed to travel to Tamworth, as Narrabri hospital did not have an anaesthetist and could not deliver in Narrabri. However, he was delivered 3 days later in Narrabri, because they now had an anaesthetist in town.

Finally in September 2023, one of my sons was involved in a serious car accident. After triage in Narrabri, he was airlifted to John Hunter with a serious hand injury. A decision was made to amputate his right index finger. But this would not be done immediately, as he had no other injuries, the hospital asked him to leave and to come back 2 days later for the operation. Fortunately, my sister lives in Newcastle and was able to look after my son. Following successful surgery 2 days later, his wife who had travelled to Newcastle was able to take him home. This cost her 2 days' work, and 1000 km round trip.

20 years ago, i would have been seen to by a real doctor, and my grandchildren would have been born in Wee Waa hospital.

John Hunter hospital release people at any time of the day and at times when public transport is not available. They are not understanding of the distances that are required by people in regional areas.