

**Submission
No 54**

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 15 April 2025

Partially
Confidential

On Thursday [REDACTED] [REDACTED] went to see [REDACTED] at the Wee Waa Medical Centre to get some repeat scripts, while there he asked her to take his blood pressure. It was very high and she thought he should go to the hospital to have it monitored. Being 5.20pm it wasn't possible to go to Wee Waa. She gave him a referral and sent him straight up to Narrabri. Upon arrival at emergency we told the nurse why we had come. We had only just filled out the triage form and were taken into a room where his blood pressure was taken twice, once with the new machine then the old way!!(it's more reliable apparently) it was still high. 10 mins later a dr came in and told us that the ED doesn't deal with high blood pressure, he would need bloods taken and see your general Dr for maybe a medication change. I informed him that [REDACTED] has a high risk of stroke in his family and we were 45kms away but he said just come back.

We went home with no sleep, [REDACTED] was clammy all the while and sweaty.

He went to have bloods the next morning and saw [REDACTED] who asked how he got on, she was alarmed that he had been sent home. She took his blood pressure again which was still very high and sent him immediately to the Wee Waa hospital where he was given an ECG and monitored plus had blood taken which showed that he had a heart murmur and had had a possible heart attack.

He hadn't had any pain or other symptoms.

Wee Waa staff were amazing and spoke with Tamworth ED, there was no Cardiologist on call that weekend so they talked to Newcastle and said he needed to not be let out of medical care. If they had a bed he would probably be air lifted to JHH from Tamworth.

He went by ambulance to Tamworth where he waited for over 12 hours in emergency, he was finally placed in a bed in a medical ward as there were no beds in the Cardio ward.

He continued to be monitored all weekend but was only seen by a GP. He had to wait till Monday to have scans to check for a blockage, lucky there was no blockages.

He was then told to go home and given some medication changes, but a blood pressure machine to keep an eye on it. We were told blood cultures could take 5-6 weeks to grow and the doctors practice would be in touch for a follow up appointment. We are still waiting to hear to them.

We feel very lucky that our situation was a good result but it's a very scary thing knowing that next time we might not be so lucky, or it will be someone else we know.

I did attend the meeting in Wee Waa about the hospital.

In [REDACTED] this year my 85yr old mother-in-law had a fall at her home in Wee Waa. She ended up in Narrabri Hospital for 5 weeks and is now in Weeronga Wee Waa (thank god that is not

run by HNEH). During those 5 weeks at certain times up to 7 Wee Waa residents were in the general wards in Narrabri, some elderly waiting to go to care, some sick and some palliative. These people should be able to be in their own community where they have access to family. We had to have someone from our family be there every day to try and help her eat, other families weren't so lucky.

I think HNEH has a lot to answer to. They will not handle all of the extra people that will be transferred away from our local communities to a Regional Hospital like Tamworth.

What are we to do out here besides hope and pray we don't get sick and need medical attention.