

**Submission  
No 59**

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

**Name:** Mrs Oddette Avery

**Date Received:** 16 April 2025

I have lived in Wee Waa all my life, I had my two children in Wee Waa Hospital, my nana had a knee reconstruction in the Wee Waa Hospital, my children had treatments done over the years, stitches, broken bones all the usual childhood accidents, all at the Wee Waa Hospital.

In 2017 my father was diagnosed with leukemia, he used to get his bloods done in Wee Waa Hospital and then at the end of 2017 we were told he would have to go to Narrabri to get his bloods! So they were obviously starting to reduce services way back then (7/8 years ago).

My father passed away in April 2018. For the last few months my father and mother had to move over to Tamworth ( 3 hours away) to get medical services. We had to lease a unit close to the hospital. This made it very difficult for all our family as we all lived in Wee Waa. If the hospital was running to full function he could have spent his last days at Wee Waa in the palliative care ward where, by the way our local community has raised funds for, with all his family by his side, but instead we didn't get to say our last goodbyes. That is not fair and something we will never get back.

I did email David Quirk of Hunter New England Health on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 about the lack of service at the Wee Waa Hospital to which I got a standard reply and that he would investigate the matters outlined in my email and provide feedback to me in the near future. I am STILL waiting for his reply!

In hindsight we should have all realised that way back in 2017 was when Wee Waa Hospital started cutting back on services to eventually be what it is now Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm with no physical Doctor.

Are they going like the banks? Reduce hours, then say no one is using the service, so its not warranted, so then close the facility altogether. If we have after hours needs, we have to travel to Narrabri 40kms away or sometimes sent onto Tamworth 3 hours away, which only puts more pressure on these already overworked hospitals.

I hope whoever has the power to do something about our Wee Waa Hospital steps up and fixes this mess.

Oddette Avery