

**Submission
No 61**

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

Organisation: HealthWISE
Date Received: 16 April 2025

14 April 2025

Mr Clayton Barr MP
Chair
Committee on Community Services
Parliament of New South Wales

**Inquiry into Health Services Amendment (Splitting of the Hunter New England Health District)
Bill 2025**

HealthWISE, a not-for-profit charity, delivers programs and services across each Local Government Area (LGA) included in the proposed New England North West Health District (Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn Shire, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth Regional, Tenterfield, Uralla and Walcha).

Community members from across the New England North West are referred to our services from multiple sources including General Practice and the Local Health District.

HealthWISE does not hold an organisational view on the proposed bill but supports the inquiry process to determine the potential impacts and benefits of splitting the current Hunter New England Local Health District. We would be pleased to see the inquiry investigate the proposed splits affect on:

- Place based services to support local health workforce development initiatives
- Social Determinants of Health
- The proposed health district supporting maternity services across LGAs
- The proposed health district supporting palliative care across LGAs
- Capacity for social and emotional wellbeing to support recovery closer to home
- Multidisciplinary teams operation
- Less reliance on locums and digital medical services
- Increased local service provider input into planning and decision making
- Appropriate division of funding and resources to support locally based services
- Preservation of links for clinical staff to seek specialist advice/ peer and other learning opportunities/ client care outside the New England
- Local hospital leadership and decision making
- Guarantee of no reduction in funding and increased equity for rural areas

Consultation on this proposal undertaken with our staff revealed that 64% were in favour of splitting the HNELHD; 36% needed more information about the proposal to form an opinion and 0% were in favour of retaining the HNELHD at this point.

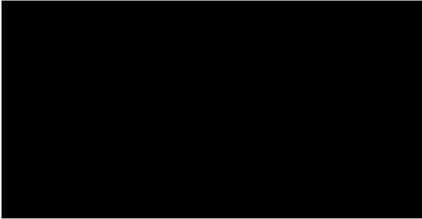
HealthWISE team members identified the geographic and demographic differences between the Newcastle/ Hunter areas and the remaining LGAs of the current LHD as a concern with the current structure.



Assurances that funding extending to a new NENW LHD not being 'swallowed up' creating and funding a new management structure was a repeated concern from our consultation and emphasis was placed on the opportunity this split could provide to enhance local staffing levels and skills, specialists' availability and improvement in IT infrastructure.

We look forward to the inquiry process revealing more information on the proposed split.

Yours sincerely



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CEO



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