

**Submission
No 68**

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 17 April 2025

Partially
Confidential

STORY ONE

In the floods of November [REDACTED] my daughter tripped over some glass and sustained cuts to her face. She was transferred from Wee Waa hospital via helicopter to Tamworth as the road has cut out of wee waa. Upon arriving in Tamworth my daughter underwent 5 hours of surgery to remove glass from eye was getting her in stable condition she further transferred to Sydney to see an eye specialist to ensure they could save her eye; she is now awaiting an eye transplant.

Had the Wee Waa hospital has not been opened 24 hours my daughter would not been able to be stabilised to be able to travel

STORY TWO

I would like to make a submission to this inquiry by firstly saying that there is very little confidence in Hunter New England Health, especially where I live, in wee waa. They have let our hospital slide to the point where it is no longer able to look after inpatients. Our community feels as though we have been ignored, and they just don't seem to care.

[REDACTED], I have firsthand knowledge of many horror stories due to our hospital's decline. just one recent example is that of a local couple in their 90's who were living in their home, with the wife caring for her husband who was palliative. if the hospital was opened, he would have been cared for there. the wife suffered a heart attack and had to be admitted to the hospital in Tamworth, while community members including myself scrambled to arrange care for her husband at home. Because our hospital wasn't opened, Tamworth was unable to transfer the wife back to wee waa and Narrabri wasn't an option as it was full, so the couple remained separated. Tragically the wife died in Tamworth while the husband died in Wee Waa soon after, the couple were not able to comfort each other during their final days. They should have been able to spend their finals days together in wee waa hospital.

It has become quite common for Wee Waa residents to pass away in other hospitals just because they can't be transferred back to wee waa as there is no VMO at the hospital. This has made a difficult time even harder as family i faced with having to travel and find accomodation and then having to arrange and pay for having their loved one returned home for burial, its just not right.

Some people keep saying we can just go to our nearest hospital, which is nearly 40 minutes away. These people seem to forget about those from outlying communities, up to an hour outside of wee waa. by the time they travel an additional 40 minutes it could be too late for them.

I have a lot to do with many of the local nurses and I can say no nurse is comfortable working in a hospital that doesn't have a dr, and who can blame them? If we can get drs back to the hospital there would be no problem, find enough nurses.

If HNEH was split back into 2 areas, that would help with managing the hospital here and make things run more efficiently, at the moment it is too big, and no one seems to know what is going on.

I AM HAPPY TO APPEAR INFRONT OF THE PANEL.