

**Submission
No 92**

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 2 May 2025

Partially
Confidential

Sorry, I've only just heard about this Bill....but I do wish to make a couple of remarks.

- * the area covered by the Hunter Health area is too large and has lost the "inclusiveness" of the smaller regional communities.

- * having recently been a patient of both the Armidale Rural hospital, Tamworth hospital, the John Hunter hospital and the Calvary Mater hospital (Newcastle), whilst the staffing levels are very short, the attention to the patients have been very caring - it's the red tape and restrictions issued from the Health Department, then via Newcastle that create most problems.

- * we HAVE to attract more qualified doctors (and stop the use of highly-paid locums...which use up funds that could be put to better use) for patient care.

- * we NEED younger nurses coming through... as a lot of our current nursing staff are reaching retiring age...same with local doctors in private practice in our area....the "downfall" in nursing was taking the training of nursing staff out of the hospital system...and going "academic". A lot of the graduating nursing staff from this new system don't have a "bedside manner" and they'd prefer to sit at the computer system rather than attend to patients bedside. A few weeks "placement" each year is not a satisfactory practical learning experience.

Lastly, shortage and overworked staff (doctors, nurses and other ancillary staff) are leading to misdiagnose of patients (personal experience ... broken hip misdiagnosed by radiologist and confirmed by Dr for 5 days till I sought a 2nd opinion) and since then, I'm now hearing of other misdiagnosed cases in surrounding hospitals (especially cancer).. Not good for the patients and their families.

I know it's a very hard ask, but I feel our Hunter Health area should be split - in the hope of more regional autonomy.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]