



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 – HEALTH

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN FOR NEW INQUIRY INTO HEALTH OUTCOMES AND SERVICES IN RURAL, REGIONAL AND REMOTE NSW**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

An Upper House inquiry has been established to inquire into the health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales.

Chair of Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health, the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC said: “The committee has established this important inquiry because we believe it is imperative that people who live in rural, regional and remote areas have comparable health outcomes and access to health and hospital services to those who live in metropolitan areas.”

Through this inquiry, the committee will examine health outcomes, patient experiences, wait-times and quality of care for people who live in rural, regional and remote New South Wales, and how these measures compare to those of metropolitan local health districts. The committee will also consider levels of access to health and hospital services in these areas, including examining service availability, barriers to access and the quality of available services.

Mr Donnelly added, “In addition, the committee will examine and analyse NSW Health's planning systems and projections in determining the provision of health services, as well as capital and recurrent health expenditure in these areas. Further to this, we will look into staffing challenges, the provision of ambulances services, and the access and availability of oncology treatments and palliative care in rural, regional and remote New South Wales.”

The Chair continued, “This is an opportunity for people living outside of metropolitan areas to have their views heard by a parliamentary committee and for the committee to gather valuable information on health and patient outcomes in those areas.”

The committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders and members of the community. The closing date for submissions is 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020 with public hearings to take place in the new year. For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, please visit the committee's [website](#).

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*For further information, please contact Committee Chair, the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC, on (02) 9230 2280.*