



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 – HEALTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **First hearing for inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

On Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March the first in a series of hearings will be held as part of a New South Wales parliamentary inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote areas across the state.

This initial hearing will take place at Parliament House in Sydney. Further hearings and site visits are being held in rural, regional and remote NSW over the coming months, allowing members of the Upper House's health committee to explore a range of issues and hear from community members and health workers from around the state.

Chair of the committee, the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC said that after receiving over 700 written submissions, the committee was looking forward to speaking directly with witnesses to continue the important task of gathering further evidence for the inquiry.

"As a starting point in Sydney, we'll be hearing from a range of organisations spanning health and medical representative bodies, groups representing rural doctors, nurses, unions, and of course NSW Health.

"This inquiry was established to look at health and hospital services for people living in rural, regional and remote areas, and how their access to these services and ultimately their health outcomes compare to those living in metropolitan areas. The committee will be using the evidence gathered from the submissions and public hearings to develop a comprehensive report and propose recommendations to the NSW Government for addressing issues that are identified and need to be addressed", Mr Donnelly said.

The Sydney hearing will commence at 9.00 am and will conclude at 5.00 pm on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March in the Macquarie Room, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street. While the proceedings are open to the public, space will be limited due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. Those wishing to view the hearing are encouraged to join via the live webcast at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Pages/webcasts.aspx](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Pages/webcasts.aspx).

The full hearing schedule and other information relating to the inquiry is available from [www.bit.ly/health-inquiry](http://www.bit.ly/health-inquiry).

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