



MEDIA RELEASE

Committee to visit communities as part of inquiry into health outcomes and services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Committee members working on a parliamentary inquiry into health outcomes and services in rural, regional and remote areas of New South Wales are heading out into the regions to explore the issues first-hand.

The inquiry's finalised schedule of regional hearings and health site visits are as follows:

29 April	Deniliquin	17 June	Lismore
30 April	Cobar	5 October	Tumut
18 May	Wellington	6 October	Wagga Wagga
19 May	Dubbo	2 November	Walgett
16 June	Gunnedah and Taree	3 November	Broken Hill

The chair of the Upper House Health Committee, the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC, said this was a critical stage of the inquiry process.

"This is such a significant inquiry, in both importance and sheer size. We began with more than 700 written submissions, and have already heard from 12 health and medical organisations in our first hearing in Sydney. But of course to ensure we're doing this important issue justice and gathering all the evidence we can, we now need to get out and hear from the people, the organisations and the services that are based in the rural, regional and remote areas that are the subject of this work."

Mr Donnelly said the formal hearings will involve invited witnesses, and the locations for site visits were being carefully chosen.

"The locations we'll be going to will take us across the state. They've been selected based on where the written submissions have told us some of the key or recurring issues are, and in locations where invited witnesses can travel to more easily if they're a little further out."

"We appreciate that this inquiry will attract a lot of interest, and so remind everyone that they can find full details, including hearing transcripts, at www.bit.ly/health-inquiry," Mr Donnelly said.

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