

Inquiry into Health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales.

Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health on Wednesday 6 October 2021 Supplementary Questions

1. In addition to what is contained in your submission and evidence provided at the public hearing, do you have any further comments regarding the current provision of palliative medicine, nursing and care in rural, regional and remote New South Wales?

Thank goodness I am fortunate in that I haven't had to deal with the issue of Palliative Care (PC). I understand from a friend who is a PC Volunteer that we do have a Palliative Care service in the Eurobodalla which includes a PC specialist nurse and some extremely competent, dedicated and caring nurses, what we don't have, however, is any real form of inpatient hospice care. The patients get daily visits from nurses towards the end of life, plus an hour a week from the Palliative Care volunteers, but, other than that, it is down to the family. The nearest hospices are Clare Holland in Canberra and one in Bowral. This is a very long way away from the Eurobodalla for families to visit and/or stay.

2. In addition to what is contained in your submission and evidence provided at the public hearing, do you have any further comments regarding ways to improve both the access and availability of palliative medicine, nursing and care in rural, regional and remote New South Wales

I suggest a dedicated facility is much needed, I don't imagine anyone wants to die alone, yet without a facility close by this is the likely scenario for many, as long distance travel and accommodation can be prohibitive to some in our community both financially and practically.