

**Submission
No 8**

**INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF DRUG
REHABILITATION SERVICES IN REGIONAL, RURAL AND
REMOTE NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: The Hon Thomas George MP

Date received: 7 December 2017

4 December 2017

The Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC
The Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 2
portfoliocommittee2@parliament.nsw.gov.au



Dear ~~Mr~~ Donnelly

RE: Inquiry into the Provision of Drug Rehabilitation Services in Regional, Rural and Remote NSW

Lismore and its surrounding areas have many services available for drug rehabilitation. This includes:

- 14 bed Inpatient Withdrawal Unit in Lismore.
- Opioid Treatment Clinics in Lismore, Nimbin and Tweed.
- Counselling services in Lismore, Kyogle, Murwillumbah, with outreach to Nimbin.
- Drugs in Pregnancy Services in Tweed and Lismore.
- Magistrate Early Referral to Treatment (MERIT) in Lismore and Tweed.

There are similar facilities in the surrounding towns of Grafton, Byron Bay, Evans Head, Maclean and Ballina that also provide for residents of Lismore.

However, there are gaps and shortages in the provision of these services to younger people in my electorate. Currently, the Northern NSW Local Health District does not have a detox facility available for individuals under 18 years of age. This is a dramatic shortage for younger people affected by alcohol and drugs in the community.

Additionally, there is potential for a new and innovative method of detox in my electorate. There are currently a rising number of people unable to utilise detox services as they cannot stay overnight. Providing this service at an individual's home is a potential solution to address this problem. This would require trained staff to attend and monitor the person at home, allowing a more flexible option of care and treatment.

Thank you for considering this submission. I trust you will be in contact should you require any further information.

Kind regards



THOMAS GEORGE MP
Member for Lismore

