

Submission  
No 26

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

**Organisation:** Gunnebah Health and Addiction Recovery

**Date received:** 12 December 2017

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To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission.

We will be brief and if our proposal is of interest we are happy to expand upon it.

We are a private residential addiction rehab in Norther NSW near Murwillumbah.

## **CURRENT POSITION**

The current situation in NSW and Australia is that Private Health Insurance does not cover private rehab facilities other than the few short term detox/rehab facilities that are in registered private hospitals.

There is a large cost gap between the publicly or charity funded rehab and private rehab.

A number of people currently using public rehab would like to go to private rehab but the gap is currently too wide.

## **PROPOSAL**

In order to close the gap AND encourage private rehab operators to open more facilities in regional NSW some Government funding flowing to the private facilities would assist and would also take pressure off the non private rehab.

Our proposal is that the government create some sensible but brief requirements and rebate private rehabs on a success basis.

As an example the NSW government requires that a private rehab program be signed off by the following people.

1. A Medical Doctor associated with the private rehab.
2. A Clinical Psychologist associated with the private rehab.
3. A Medical Doctor and/or a Clinical Psychologist on behalf of the NSW Government.

The program should be evidence based and may be required to cover other sensible but minimal guidelines.

Too much Government oversight could outweigh any financial incentive.

The government could then pay the private facilities a success fee once a person has spend an agreed amount of time in the private rehab facility.

It might work like this. If the normal fee for private rehab is \$10k per month then the government could pay the private rehab \$5k at the completion of each month to the facility.

If this was to be successful then the private facility could afford to charge \$5k per month. (provided the cost of compliance with the NSW government was not too onerous.)

At \$5k per month instead of \$10k private rehab would become affordable to a much larger demographic.

This greater demographic would encourage greater private investment in regional areas.

Due to no government involvement in the setting up of a private facility and minimal government involvement in the actual rehab the overall costs to the government should be minimised.

The commitment by the government to pay the success fee would be the cornerstone to encourage private operators to set up in areas of demand.

We hope this is of some assistance.

Best Regards



# Gunnebah

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