

**INQUIRY INTO HEALTH OUTCOMES AND ACCESS TO
HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SERVICES IN RURAL,
REGIONAL AND REMOTE NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

The wait time to see a doctor in rural areas has gotten out of control. I travel 50klms to see a doctor but it takes up to 4-5 weeks to get in. I found a breast lump and had to wait 4 weeks to see GP. I rang the hospital and they said I'd need to see my GP. The mental anguish over waiting so long was hell. I rang Breast Screen Dubbo 130klms away and had to wait 4 weeks to get in even after telling them about the lump.

I also rang Coonabarabran hospital at 11pm at night due to my grandson having a rash all over his body. I ask to make sure a doctor was there, I was told yes and to come straight in. When we got there the doctor didn't even see us, the nurse took the baby's obs and rang the doctor. He told her to give him some medication and come back in the morning. The nurse drew up the medication and ask me to check it was the correct dose of 1ml.

I didn't know the medication or what the doctor had said so I didn't know if what she was saying was correct. When giving a paediatric dose from over the phone 2 nurses are supposed to confirm the order and two nurses are supposed to check the dose before it is given. The nurse in question then gave me the medication to administer to the child as she had no idea how to deal with a baby.

This could have had serious repercussions but this is an everyday occurrence out here and things need to change.