

**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

I presented to Coolah hospital at 11am on Thursday 29th November 2018 with a stomach complaint. The Coolah doctor suspected appendicitis and due to lack of equipment decided I needed to go to Dubbo. I had a four month old baby with me who I was still breastfeeding. It was decided at Coolah that the baby could not go in the Ambulance with me and I would be quicker getting to the hospital if I had someone drive me. So I organised for my husband to drive me.

We presented at Dubbo hospital around 4pm on the same day. We were informed that Dubbo would know we were coming but there didn't seem to be any correspondence between the two hospitals.

I sat in emergency until 11pm that night when an ultrasound was finally organised ruling out appendicitis. At this point I was given an emergency bed in a room which barely fitted my baby daughter and I.

During the night I was offered Morphine which later I was told should not be taken when breast feeding. Even though I kept reminding everyone I was breast feeding my 4 month old baby.

That morning at 7am a doctor saw me who stated 'You could go home and see what happens or have a CT scan.' Thank fully at 11am that morning I had the CT scan which showed a blocked and twisted bowel. I was operated on about hour later by which time I was vomiting a green substance and in a very bad way. As explained by my surgeon after my surgery ' If this had been left another 12 hours, it would have been a very different story.'

After surgery I was looked after very well however the situation that I faced prior to the surgery was bad, really bad.

And since then things have got worse. Coolah no longer has a resident doctor and it appears that the country is being forgotten about when it comes to Health.

Last week I took my now 2 year old daughter into Coolah hospital as she had a dislocated elbow. I knew what it was and what needed to happen but I waited 3 hours to see the doctor to adjust her elbow so that we could go back home. It is a very simple procedure and I was not sure if I was even going to be able to see the doctor that day, it was only that a bigger emergency came in that the doctor saw us.

None of this is the doctors fault as they are absolutely doing their best with what they have to work with. Something needs to be done from higher up and its time that country people speak up about this.

Thanks for listening to my story!