

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 22 October 2020

Partially
Confidential

My husband _____ died of a Metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma (Metastatic), on _____ 2020, at The Southern Highlands Private Hospital, in Bowral. My concern and complaint is the appalling way he was treated at Bowral Public Hospital.

It was obvious to anyone who saw him, that _____ was very ill indeed. In fact, we thought that he may have had a stroke. However, we took him to Emergency at Bowral Public Hospital on three occasions within three weeks and each time he was sent home, despite the family's pleading for him to have an MRI. They responded by saying that they did not have an MRI machine. They did however, do a Cat scan on each occasion, saying that each one was clear.

We were desperate at this stage because he was greatly in need of help. We then asked for him to be sent to Liverpool Hospital, where they do have an MRI machine, and we have it in writing, that they felt this wasn't necessary.

My family then took him to Liverpool Hospital themselves shortly after, where an MRI showed that his cancer had now spread to his brain!

An indication of how ill he really was, was that he had the Last Rites a couple of days later. He then spent three weeks in Liverpool Hospital undergoing two rounds of Radiotherapy.

Having then been told by his doctors, that _____ time was extremely limited, I requested that he be transferred to The Southern Highlands Private Hospital, so that he was much closer to home (I live in the Southern Highlands), and it was there that he passed away 12 days later.

It is also worth noting, that the Emergency staff at Bowral Public Hospital, a couple of nurses were inept to say the least. On two separate occasions, _____ alarming condition was put down by staff, as "old age/dementia" - not true in either case.

Both _____ and the family suffered a great deal waiting for appropriate care.

The Bowral Public Hospital's defence is that a Cat scan conducted, did not show any cancer. That may be true, but given how very ill he was, further investigation was clearly called for.

Given the extreme and completely unnecessary stress this caused both _____ and my family, I would greatly appreciate your reply ASAP, as this needs to be addressed so that other families do not go through what we have.