

**Submission
No 31**

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

Name: Mrs Marg Haley
Date Received: 26 October 2020

Binnaway is a low socio economic village.

The 2016 Census identified the population as 710, the median age as 55, median personal income as \$391, median family total income as \$710, 15.8% of the population as unemployed, 45.5% of the male population identified as of Aboriginal descent and 54.5% of the female population as of Aboriginal descent, 42.2% of the total population of Binnaway falls in the age bracket of 60-over 85. (Census 2016)

The Binnaway Progress Association has been in close contact with RAHMS over the last 5 years and more recently made representation to Roy Butler to have a doctor visit the village 1 day/week or fortnight, to no avail.

Binnaway has a modern Community Medical Centre available for such visitation.

With the closest doctors being in Coolah or Coonabarabran there is a cost to the residents of Binnaway for appointments causing a burden on the household income.

Binnaway is very fortunate to have a Pharmacy to be able to support the employment of a local visiting doctor. This employment would also ensure that the resident pharmacist would be able to maintain his business and remain in our village. He is held in high esteem and valued as part of our community.

The other small businesses in Binnaway would also be assisted in being able to keep running, as Binnaway residents would not need to travel to the larger towns of Coolah and Coonabarabran for the doctor, hence would do all their shopping in Binnaway.

I put it to the Committee that Binnaway needs access to a doctor within the village to remain viable as a town.