

**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

Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in rural, Regional & Remote New South Wales

Murrurundi has a wonderful GP [redacted]. The elderly residents like him and feel very comfortable with him. I know this first hand as I have taken my dear friend [redacted] who is 86yrs young to him on numerous occasions. He gives her time, he gives her confidence to continue living on her own, in her own home, and [redacted] is confident and comforted by the fact he is here and she can go up to our Wilson Memorial Hospital Murrurundi if something was to happen to her. She can be near home and friends. As is the case of many of our elderly residents here in Murrurundi, they wish to end their days in our local hospital surrounded by family and friends and the caring staff whose faces they know and trust.

Murrurundi's Wilson Memorial Hospital is currently been transformed into a multi purpose hospital and we are excitedly watching as a brand new hospital goes up to service our town and surrounding areas. **BUT THERE IS A PROBLEM**

The problem is that as [redacted] only works 3 days a week I have been informed there is no admission to our local hospital. [redacted] and her fellow aged residents will have to be transported to Scone, a 30 mins drive or Tamworth, a 1hr drive if something was to happen to them and they needed care or indeed end of life care. You cannot even have sutures if one was to have a fall.

30 mins drive may not seem like a lot to some people. But if you are elderly, confused at times, especially in a medical situation, being away from your home town can make all the difference to your recovery. I have not had the conversation with my dear friend [redacted] regarding her not being able to access our local hospital if something was to happen as I know it would upset her and add to her fragility.

As we watch this amazing new hospital structure go up I would like to know if our town is going to have a doctor and if our hospital is going to be open for business.

Why spend all this money if there is no doctor available on call or at weekends and as such no patients can be admitted. Maybe New England Health are hoping this new facility will entice a Dr to the area to share the services with [redacted] but we need clarification from them as to how the system works and what they as the governing body are doing about making sure our hospital will be open to patients.

Thank you.