

Submission
No 47

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

Name: Mr Timothy Metcraft
Date Received: 17 November 2020

Partially
Confidential

Timothy Metcraft

17 November, 2020

In late October I sent out multiple letters to NSW Ministers, to bring attention to the treatment of my Mother, Judith Metcraft, by Bathurst Hospital. For 2 years now we've been trying to get them to accept her admission for Knee Replacement Surgery under Medicare only to be rejected by Administration staff due to her BMI being too high.

In the requirements of the hospital, my mother must reach 95kgs in weight before they will consider approving the surgery. 2 years ago my mother weighed approximately 118kgs, over that time with changes in diet, and decreasing ability to even walk small distances she has dropped as low as 105.8kgs.

With her current mobility, the intense exercise needed is unobtainable, to be able to move with any ease she would need a Knee Replacement to allow her to recover her mobility to exercise. But the hospital is adhering to using BMI as a requirement for surgery, something we have been made aware Private Healthcare Patients do not need to adhere to.

The BMI Equation is insufficient to calculate mass for a person, it cannot take into account different densities between muscle, bone, organs and fat cells. Under the BMI a majority of population in Australia would be considered Obese and unable to access required surgery.

Bathurst Hospital has a BMI cutoff of 40, My mother, at last admission attempt in October, was by their records was a BMI of 42-43.

Without the surgery my Mothers quality of life is decreasing at a rapid rate. We now have support services in place thanks to My Aged Care Homecare Package, which she access housework assistance once a week to decrease the amount she needs to try to push herself to do anything and cause pain.

My Mothers Surgeon, wishes to do the surgery now, and my mother would prefer it done as soon as possible, especially now we have the ability to increase services to help with recovery.

I do wish this were the only problems with Bathurst Hospital that we have had in the past, but we have had problems every time my elderly father Albert Metcraft, is admitted, the last 3 Admissions, he has lost mobility and this triggers admission, on Admission he's able to speak and feed himself, on being discharged, the last two times, he was unable to walk, speak or feed himself.

The hospital repeatedly tried to get us to Admit him to a nursing home saying that he would never walk again, we repeatedly pointed out that he was walking a short time before his admission, even showing his Physiotherapy exercise records to back us up. During his stays, the hospital failed to even do the most basic of exercises to keep his legs moving. At times, he was left unwashed and in the same incontinence pads for up to 4 days before being attended to.

Included in this submission, I will include the letter I have written on behalf of my Mother about the failings of the hospital. I do hope that this will help in the Inquiry and lead to a positive outcome.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for more information, email is preferred, if a phone call is required, please Send an email to say when the call is due to come through, as we generally ignore calls from out of our area, due to the overwhelming amount of Scam calls.

Kindest Regards,
Timothy Metcraft