

Submission
No 60

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 25 November 2020

Partially
Confidential

Orange NSW and surrounding areas have significant waiting lists for many health services.

The majority of psychology services have their books closed.

Waiting lists for occupational therapists can be 6 months to 2 years +. An urgent psychiatry review can be 6-9 months.

I've recently heard of a 7 year old child with suicidal ideation being asked to wait for psychiatry until May next year (it is currently November.) Paediatrician appointments can take 12-18 months to get Access to these essential services is so limited by the geographical location and the equity is very poor.

Perhaps thought should be given to incentivise health professionals to move rurally or increase the amount of University places for health degrees.

Trying to recruit to rural positions is nearly impossible and some job ads are getting no interest even after 12 months.