

**Submission
No 68**

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

Name: Mrs Rebecca Flett
Date Received: 30 November 2020

As a nurse working at an extremely busy but small rural hospital in Cessnock, I feel we need more staffing and funding to provide safe and more efficient healthcare to the rapidly growing community. Increased support for staff is also needed to prevent burnout, improve the mental health of staff and to encourage people to want to work in a rural ED. In our current situation with Covid and doctors surgery not seeing as many patients our ED is getting pushed to beyond breaking point with the amount of patients we are seeing everyday as well as the high level of care required for these patients.

Many patients could have been better managed in the community earlier if they were able to actually see their GP to be started on treatment but could not due to no available appointments or no face to face appointments. Due to this people are attending the ED in such a state that sometimes their condition is now life threatening and are requiring much more resources to be able to treat them. This is now a major problem and the increased risk of mortality is very much a reality. Please consider reviewing this situation as not only are the lives of our community at risk but also the hospital staff especially nurses are at risk,