

**Submission  
No 69**

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

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Dear Chair,

I would be pleased to assist the committee in its deliberations concerning disparities between city and rural NSW in the availability of expertise to assist patients and prescribers with advice and guidance regarding the appropriate choice and dosing of medication. Medication caused adverse reactions are a leading cause of admissions to our hospitals (around 6 %, and higher in the elderly and those with mental illnesses). Serious, at times catastrophic, reactions occur but estimates indicate that half are preventable.

Individualising dosing is critical for many medicines but is often deficient. This extends to the rapidly developing field of pharmacogenomics, the study of genetic effects on medication efficacy and safety. Rural NSW is severely disadvantaged because of limited access to clinical pharmacologists, physicians trained in all issues to do with safe use of medicines, including the newer topic of pharmacogenomics.

All LHDs need access to clinical pharmacologists for guidance, education and promotion of safe use of medicines. I would be pleased to inform the Committee regarding this critical need.

Sincerely Richard Day