

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 29 November 2020

Partially
Confidential

Evening, my concern is as a rural nurse who works on the south coast at Batemans Bay & Moruya hospitals & we are always so understaffed at a dangerous level where care & safety of out patients can be jeopardised.

Annually in the Eurobodalla with have 1.6 million visitors/holiday makers who come to our region. We struggle out of the holiday period & more so once the holiday period is open especially, especially the Xmas & summer holidays.

We are nervous & have high anxiety knowing we will be working double & sometimes triple shifts to cover the shortfall. Why can't the funding to both these rural hospitals be adjusted earlier than now so management can advertise for more staff & even organise & advertise for agency staff.

This time last year we were literally under fire both hospitals the fires came within 150 & 200 metres. Both hospitals are not fire safe with the latest requirements of 2020 & struggled, you know why, because we're understaffed & then staff were cut off & unable to attend work.

There was 30% of staff across both sites fire impacted, huge numbers. Then as we were trying to catch our breath who could have predicted a world wide pandemic. Now this is where it gets even more interesting because we DO NOT have an ICU, the nearest is 2 hrs south, 2 hrs inland(ACT) & 2 hrs north.

We have been promised & allocated a new regional hospital & Moruya & with this should come funding for an improved staff model & numbers & really it should be an immediate Level 4 hospital not a future plan!

I diverted to what's planned for the Eurobodalla & our health facility, BUT, our main issue at the moment is adequate staffing levels which is appalling. Moruya & Batemans Bay hospitals both have more presentations than Goulburn hospital & Bega's new SERH.

Rural health facilities are struggling, pts lives & their care are being jeopardised. We work incredibly hard to save any trauma that presents to ED's, but you know what, it's incredibly disheartening when staff leave their shifts emotionally & physically shattered.

You should come down here & shadow us & watch out work, yes you'll be incredibly proud of us but also embarrassed that you are letting us work in these conditions, esp 2 patched up 40 year old hospitals that leak & are not up to standard, 2020 standards.

Please give us more staff at both hospitals, this is critical & before another tragedy hits us.

I hope you can help us we're desperate