

**Submission
No 96**

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

Name: Ms Margaret Morgan

Date Received: 30 November 2020

My submission is to shine a light on the deficiency in hospital care in the Kempsey area.

Paediatric Ward:

Kempsey Hospital does not have a Paediatric Facility, which creates enormous problems for families whose children are in need hospital admission.

For children in need of specialist care, for any reason, the only option is to attend Port MacQuarie Hospital.

Some parents/carers have no car, the problem is then exacerbated, should the child be hospitalised for any length of time and a parent/carer wishes to stay to support the child, there is accommodation available (if there is a vacancy, and if you can afford it).

If there are other children in the family, who are attending school, this creates a much more complex problem. A Community Bus runs from Kempsey to Port Macquarie Hospital, however this may not coincide with school times, leaving the other children in the care of others adding to the stress already affecting the parent/carer.

Should a child or adult have a broken bone, once again, they too must attend Port MacQuarie Hospital Fracture Clinic. A visit can take up the whole day and the parent/carer needs to take food and drinks for the day or be confronted with extra costs.

Member of Macleay Valley Branch ALP:

A member of the Macleay Valley Branch, very spritely 92 year old Richard Doyle, had a fall earlier this year, causing him considerable neck and shoulder pain.

He was taken by ambulance to Kempsey Hospital that afternoon, where his neck and shoulder was X rayed and was given medication to relieve the pain. Richard remained in Emergency Dept for some hours.

At midnight Richard was told the Doctor could find nothing wrong in the X ray and he was discharged to go home, a trip of some 60+kms by Taxi.

Two days later still in extreme pain Richard Doyle once again attended Kempsey Hospital Emergency Dept. where a visiting Doctor checked his X ray. The Doctor immediately made arrangements for him to be transferred to Port MacQuarie Hospital by road Ambulance.

On arrival at Port Macquarie Hospital Richard was airlifted to Royal North Shore Hospital where he spent the next four weeks with what was then diagnosed as a broken neck. Richard then had a long rehabilitation and is finally on the way to recovery.

Other people have approached me with stories of their child, swallowing a coin after attending the new Macksville Hospital they were transferred by air ambulance to John Hunter for Surgery to remove the coin.

The Hospital buildings are first class but are understaffed and under resourced.

It appears funding for Regional Hospitals is an afterthought by both State and Federal Govts.

Margaret Morgan
Secretary Macleay Valley Branch ALP