

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

My husband and I are in our 60's and require more health care than we used to and have found that it is extremely difficult to make an appointment to see our family Dr at the Bay Medical Group who are in Nelson Bay, Salamander Bay and Soldiers Point. A few years ago we were able to call on the day and make an appointment for the same day. Unfortunately, this is not the case anymore. We have to make our appointments now 2 to 3 weeks in advance to see our Dr because he is absolutely run off his feet now that there are so many people moving into the Nelson Bay area and we have so few Drs here. If we need an appointment urgently we still can't get in because all the Dr's are booked out. We have been told that if it is urgent we need to go to our Local Tomaree Hospital.

Also, there is very limited communication between the local Tomaree Hospital and the local Dr's. I attended the local hospital a few weeks ago with chest pains. I had blood taken, an ECG and my blood pressure taken regularly all day and on discharge I was told that a letter would be sent to my Dr noting what had happened to me and what follow up I should receive. My local Dr did not receive the letter or blood test results, so when the Drs surgery called the hospital requesting my blood tests, ECG and letter they were told that the only record of me being there was the ECG print out they had taken. I was told that I did not have a heart attack while at the hospital but I have no proof whether I did or didn't because no one can find the results. THIS IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

Just because we live in a Regional Area should not mean that we get substandard care.

I would really like to know what is going to happen to all the people that have moved up from Sydney and surrounds that are moving into the new over 55's Lifestyle Resorts in the Port Stephens area. There are 3 new Resorts that I know of in the local area, there may be more.

Where are the Dr's that are going to look after 100's of these people living in these resorts?

How long will all the local residence have to wait to see a Dr then? More than 2 to 3 weeks for sure.

Why has the Federal Government changed the boundaries and said that we do not need any more Dr's in this area?

Since these boundaries have been changed the impact this has had on the health of so many people here including my own has been huge. We are not living in a third world country, we live in Australia and we should get the care we need.

There is so much more I could say, but the point I am trying to make is PLEASE send us more Dr's, they are needed NOW.