

**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 father almost lost his life due to the low quality of care he received at Cobar Base Hospital - I believe this occurred in part to a lack of funding, services and access to quality physicians in the rural health system. I am hopeful that a parliamentary enquiry into the rural health system in NSW will enable more positive and timely medical outcomes, reduce medical errors, as well as secure and retain appropriately experienced, competent doctors in this remote / rural setting.

My father presented 4 times to the local hospital in 2019 and was incorrectly diagnosed and sent home the first 3 times (over a 6 day period) in agony. The fourth time he presented he was carried in in a critical condition with life threatening sepsis that could have been avoided had the medical staff not been biased with their differential diagnosis and had acted upon the information provided to them by medical imaging.

My father suffered horrendously and needlessly. If he had received the care he deserved much of his suffering could have been avoided.

My father is now back in Cobar, the town he loves, however despite having a brand new hospital facility there is only a doctor there to man it every second week. What happens if an emergency were to occur when there is no doctor in town? I have been assured that The Virtual Doctor care team can assist but it's pretty hard to do CPR when you are on the other side of the world - nothing compares to having a competent doctor in person.

People in a large rural town like Cobar deserve better, my father deserved better and the people who work in the Cobar health system deserve better so they can provide better services, be appropriately staffed and retain high class physicians.