

Submission
No 117

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 3 December 2020

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I live in COBAR NSW 2835 and have lived here all my life. It has always been an issue growing up that if we were required to see a specialist etc we would need to travel to Dubbo (approx 300km). Recently my partner and I have started undertaking IVF. We completely missed an entire cycle as blood test results take over night or more to get back and also the Pathology is only open 8am until just after lunch Monday-Friday and no services on the weekend. This caused us to completely miss our chances of doing an IVF cycle as they needed our results ASAP & it was on a Friday afternoon (meaning we couldn't get a test until the Monday morning not receiving results until Tuesday) this was very upsetting for us as we had to pay cancellation costs, extra medication for the next cycle etc and ivf is a very expensive procedure as it without these extra costs.

Another issue we have found while undertaking IVF is trying to get an ultrasound on short notice (you need to book weeks in advance) is very difficult and 99% of the time you are turned away and need to drive all the way to Dubbo for a 10min ultrasound. We were required to do follicle tracking during ivf and were generally told to have an ultrasound a day or two before needing it and Cobar could never offer this service to us. After having so much troubles the last 2 attempts of IVF my partner and I decided to stay in Orange NSW (where the ivf specialist is) for the duration of our cycle (an entire month) to ensure we had access to these services. This was far easier on the test side of things however this involved us taking annual leave for this period all because we cannot access these services in our home town.

I hope this submission sheds some light on how difficult it is to access medical services in Rural NSW.