

Submission
No 118

**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

The Health system in Rural NSW is terrible. We have to wait weeks for appointments, and that's just to see a GP, or the alternative is to go to Dubbo, which for us is a 3 hour road trip, and 2 days off work, plus your travel and accommodation expenses. Nearly 3 years ago I spent nearly 1 week in Dubbo, waiting to give birth as we have no birthing facilities in Cobar. This cost a small fortune. But you cannot claim IPTAS for that, because you're not technically seeing a specialist every day.

We are not well supported when we are flown out for an emergency. My husband had kidney stones and was flown to Dubbo. Because the stones weren't a fraction larger, they wouldn't operate, and discharged him from Dubbo Base, offering to call him a taxi. He had to wait, with no where to go, still in pain, for 3 hours until I arrived to collect him and drive him home, only for him to be flown to Orange later, where they operated and shattered the stones.

We have had a few negative experiences within our family. The hospital staff can only do so much with the resources they have, but it's really not good enough.

My son was put in a back slab for a broken hand by the nurse at the hospital, under the doctors orders who simply looked at it via video link up. No referral to the fracture clinic in Dubbo, no real doctors available for a real appointment. As a result his hand has healed with a large knuckle protruding from the side of his hand. No doubt this will have to be fixed in the future.

My husband presented to Cobar hospital with severe shortness of breath. He was told by one of the nurses that he was having an anxiety attack. The doctor told him it was his Sarcoidosis, which my husband knew in himself that it was more than that. After being flown to Dubbo, he was found to have blood clouds in his lungs.

We have a beautiful new hospital, with less beds, no doctors, few specialists visiting. God help us if there was a major emergency with one of the mines.

Is it because we are Rural that we seem to be forgotten? We don't seem to matter. I hope that things improve, because we love our town, and we need a reliable health care system.

I've watched more and more people leave town, sometimes for good, to access medical care that they cannot get here. It's not good enough.