

**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

Care in the regional area of Australia is very substandard to what is received in the metro area as you are well aware.

I have worked as a nurse in regional NSW for over 30 years and during this time there has been an ongoing lack of nursing, allied health, beds, general and specialist medical services. One side effect of this has led to people being put into nursing homes before their time as rehab has not been available in the intensity or duration needed.

Personally I have been unable to have leave of any type including sick leave as there is no one to replace me, I work in a specialist unit of two staff and we have no back up. Nurses in general and my area in particular have no opportunity for ongoing education (unless it is my own time at my own cost). It is impossible to meet the compulsory educational requirements that are set to maintain my registration.

Whilst I realise that health is very costly each year, health is a basic requirement in a first world country. You should not have poorer health outcome or premature death because you choose to maintain the country from a non metro area.

I have not given specific details as there are so many. I do not know the solution but things must improve if the government does not want regional areas to become third world and even more poverty stricken.