

**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 parents live in a town three hours west of Dubbo. There is a hospital in the town with very limited services. In late 2018, my mother was diagnosed with cancer and treated with surgery and chemotherapy over approximately six months.

This treatment required her and my father to travel to Dubbo every three weeks during the period of chemotherapy, sourcing their own accommodation as mum was treated as an outpatient and sent home after every session of chemotherapy. She was too ill to travel immediately after the sessions and stayed in Dubbo each time.

While my parents have been eligible for rebates on travel and accommodation related to this medical treatment, they still had to source and pay for their accommodation and travel, then apply and wait for the rebates. As the only driver in her household my mum had to drive 3 hrs each way to chemotherapy, with this taking its toll over the period of treatment. Fortunately they were able to afford this cost, but others may not be so lucky.

In 2020 my father became ill and spent a number of days at their small local hospital where specialist services were not available to diagnose his condition in a timely manner. He required hospitalisation in Dubbo to diagnose and treat an infection.

Whilst there will always be limitations to rural and remote health services due to location, the services available are so far below what could be considered a very basic level that they are completely unusable.