

Submission
No 132

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 4 December 2020

Partially
Confidential

as a pansexual transgender man with a disability, port macquarie lacks the health services I need. Headspace is here but only caters to people under 25, there is no alternative, bulkbilled counselling service in town for people who can't access headspace.

I am on PrEP for HIV, and when I took my script to the local chemist, they DIDNT EVEN KNOW WHAT IT WAS FOR!!!! They couldn't even answer my questions about efficacy for vaginal sex...

port macquarie NEEDS health services that are skilled and trained in the needs of queer and gender minority people.

Access to health services in port macquarie is dismal and insufficient. There are NO after hours medical practices available...where are working people meant to go after 5pm? the local hospital? the only local hospital for at least 30kms, with a 5hr wait time in ED?

In addition, public transport to medical centres and the hospital is all but non-existent. The bus comes ONCE AN HOUR and is prohibitively expensive for many residents, keeping in mind port macquarie has an overall low socioeconomic status, and a significant elderly population.

Getting sensitive and respectful STI and trans specific health service in port macquarie is awful, I avoid having to get medication and treatment here whenever possible...which is NOT a viable option for many residents, especially younger people.