

Submission  
No 146

**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

The state of health in rural and regional NSW is more than disgraceful, and has been this way for far too many years!!

In my home town of Inverell, where \$60 MILLION is currently being spent on upgrading the hospital, there are no additional services or beds that come with this insane amount of money, other than a CT machine. There is no theatre run on a weekly basis conducting straight forward procedures by visiting specialists, there are no additional beds, and the conduct of staff and management in this hospital is currently before Parliament as our local Member, Adam Marshall has received so many complaints about how 'broken' this hospital is, he has had to take matters above management and that of the Health Minister.

If your child breaks a bone (of which our family has experienced), you have to do a 3 hour round trip to have a cast put on said broken bone. I recently had a gall bladder removed, and had to drive to Toowoomba (just shy of a 4 hour drive in one direction) to be operated on, as it wasn't an operation which could happen in Inverell. Unfortunately, things didn't go as planned and I ended up in hospital for 3 nights instead of 1. This is a significant cost of motels and meals for my husband who had to take time off work to wait for me to be able to go home.

2 of our children have required the services of an ENT. Again, travel to Toowoomba to closest available ENT (private- as the ENT working for the public health service was an 8 MONTH wait)! So- again, huge costs in driving, motels, time off work, meals, cost of operation and fees for specialist.

All these little things are just a few kilometres away for city folk. There is very little in compensation for those of us who live in the bush. If you can't afford to see a private specialist, then you are forced to wait the insanely ridiculous time to see a specialist in the public system- whereby, you still have to travel.

Its far beyond time the Government starting putting more services in regional and remote areas, and looking at IPTAAS also. For what you get back from IPTAAS, its hardly worth the time completing the paperwork!

We should have access to visiting specialists, we should have Nurse Practitioners in rural hospitals, we should have more Intensive Care Paramedics in remote areas. We pay taxes and are just as important as city folk! OUR lives matter too!

Please fix your broken health system!