

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 10 December 2020

Partially
Confidential

I moved to Wee Waa with my husband and 18month old daughter 3 years ago for my husbands work. We moved from Wollongong where we had access to 100s of health care facilities.

I wouldn't usually write a submission to something like this, but it was only due to taking to a friend about how frustrating it was last week trying to get my 2 year old to a doctor. After an unsettling morning I called our local medial centre hoping to be able to get an appointment for a possible ear infection, only to be told they close at lunch time on a Thursday, and don't open at all on Fridays. My only option was to drive to the next town, or present to the hospital which most likely would not have a doctor on duty. My daughter seemed to be coping with panadol over the weekend but Monday I thought I would call to make an appointment to just make sure she was ok. Just to be told the Doctor was only doing Tele health appointments via the computer for the whole week I don't know about other people's children but when a child is sick, how can a doctor examine, check ears, chest, throats, fevers or anything via Tele health. An adult can verbalise how they may be feeling but young children can not. There was no point booking this appointment.

My only option was to drive 35minutes to the next town. But living in a rural town with a population of 1000, 1 high school, 3 primary schools, a small hospital & a medical centre, I don't feel like my only option should be to travel that far for basic medical attention.

I also went through my second pregnancy while living here and also had to travel to see a doctor that would do basic routine pregnancy appointments at another GP because it is not something they do here. We are lucky to have a midwife from the next town visit fortnightly (this can be cancelled due to short staffing) to do a couple of appointments.

I am not blaming the hospitals or the doctor/staff at the medical centre, they are great, and helpful. But if they are over worked, struggling to keep up with demand, what ever the reason, something needs to change so that the people in our town can receive basic medical care a minimum 5 days a week.

Something needs to change.

Thankyou