

Submission
No 153

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 9 December 2020

Partially
Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam,

Being a resident of the Port Stephens local community for the past 5 years after living in Sydney, I have come to realise rural communities, even mine which I considered to be still within close proximity to large regional centres like Newcastle, is severely lacking in medical facilities.

Firstly, I am unable to find a GP for our family that we can see consistently and develop a relationship with, for any length of time. I've been told it's because the GP's are not allowed to stay as a result of what I see as red tape.

Secondly, we have a doctor shortage in our area. I need to book an appointment at least a week in advance.

Thirdly, we don't even have home doctor visits available. And finally, our hospital at Tomaree falls woefully short. I mean, seriously, our area is growing rapidly and the medical facilities required for that growth are not even in the ballpark of meeting demand. The hospital has a doctor on call at night for goodness sake.

We in these communities are being left behind and our health is suffering because of it.

Please step up and make changes.