

**Submission
No 175**

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

Name: Cr Carol Sparks, Mayor, Glen Innes Severn Council

Date Received: 10 December 2020

My submission concerns my own personal experience those of my friends, family and community.

I have been a registered nurse since 1971, I worked in aged care before standing for council in the 16/17 council elections.

I am very concerned, when I was elected deputy mayor of Glen Innes Severn I collected approximately 2000 signatures and handed them to Adam Marshall our state member. This petition was presented to parliament and it was about having a Doctor (RMO) at our hospital. People from the city laugh when we say we don't have a Doctor at our Hospital.

Let me explain

We have Doctors in their own Private practises and they have a roster of on call to attend the emergency department through the week. These Doctors also have visiting rights. To visit their patients in Hospital. There is a number of Doctors that do not attend the Hospital because they are part time, semi retired or simply don't want to.

The private practises do not attend the Hospital at weekends, which leaves the Hospital relying on locums to travel to Glen Innes, usually from Sydney to attend at weekend. (very costly)

This works sometimes, however there has been occasions when the Locum cannot attend for various reasons, Glen Innes is left relying on the paramedics to attend emergency's. No Doctors available.

We have recently lost a young women through I believe not having a professional assessment on arriving at the Hospital. (It is common knowledge that Glen Innes Hospital be bypassed in some cases if the emergency is too critical)

This is not about making the Doctors or the staff feel inadequate it is about professional care and frontline service for our community.

To be told to go to another hospital or to wait for a Doctor for hours is not what an injured person needs to hear, or a distressed Mother with a sick child at 2am in the morning. I have been told by a Doctor who works for a private practise and who attends the Hospital that there has been no service for people who have broken bones, that there is no Physiotherapy service.

There is no CT scanner, people needing Renal Dialysis have to travel to receive care, some 2 times a week, these are old and have nobody to take them so their travel is costly and arduous.

Recently another women with a broken wrist, and many transfers to different facilities in the new England died, there was another case a few years ago a young women died after surgery and no post op advise.

Not having the service that we expect and deserve is very worrying.

I have spoken to both Adam Marshall and Barnaby Joyce who both have said that the Medicare numbers must stay in our towns and the GP's stay and work in our towns. Government must look at a system that gives GP'S an incentive to stay and work and live in our towns.

The new England Joint Organisation has requested Hunter new England Health ,The Rural Doctors and Primary health Care give us some answers and they say there is no GP'S and communities must try and attract them, I don't think that is the answer, the problem must come from a changed system.

Yours sincerely

Carol Sparks