

**Submission
No 178**

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

Organisation: ALP Tweed Heads Branch

Date Received: 10 December 2020

The Tweed Hospital is a Peer Group B hospital that currently has 255 beds and Level 5 emergency department.

Currently at Tweed Hospital, Nursing Hours Per Patient Day wards (Medical and Surgical) are funded at 5.5 hrs instead of the 6.0 hrs that Peer Group A hospitals receive.

At Tweed the Surgical and Medical Wards are no different to any other wards of a city hospitals. The same type of patients with the same level of acuity, but at Tweed Heads every patient receives 0.5 hrs less care due to their postcode.

Our Hospital routinely has between 95%-104% occupancy and 5.5 NHPPD has a huge impact on delivering safe patient care and nursing workload.

Staffing retention is also an issue here at Tweed Heads due to our proximity to the Queensland Border, nurses no longer must put up with the horrendous workload, risks to their registration or their ability to deliver safe patient care. Many nurses have left the NSW system preferring to work in Queensland at the University Hospital 20 minutes up the highway:

- They have Ratios 1:4
- Education Allowance of \$1800 per year
- 100% Salary Sacrifice
- Higher pay rate by \$3,000 per year
- Higher penalty rates on Night Duty

The Tweed Heads Branch of the ALP believes that the failure of the Government to provide Safe Nurse to Patient Ratio's and a competitive pay rates have severely compromised safe care delivery in Regional NSW. We call on this inquiry to come to Regional NSW and talk to the community, Nurses, and doctors so that they may recommend a way forward that ensures that our health care is not dictated by our postcode