

**Submission
No 196**

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

Name: Mrs Rhonda Hetherington

Date Received: 4 December 2020

a) Health outcomes: We choose to live where we are, however despite working all our lives (butchery/farming/teaching) find on all occasions of serious health issues outcomes have been poor.

My husband has had two heart attacks and on both occasions outcomes could have been better had local hospital had access to quick efficient transfer to Melbourne.

On the last occasion over 6 hours delay occurred. Only for outstanding care at Epworth Melbourne outcomes would have been worse

We pay taxes please accommodate some improvements

b) Comparison: My brother in Sydney received quick prompt attention for heart valves, prostate cancer. We all carry private health top cover plus.

Our daughter, a Sydney based emergency doctor tells of treatments never even heard of here.

c) Our doctors do all they can but we are often reduced to locums or availability in a months time. Naturally this means patients defer treatments hence poor results on procedures that would cost governments less if treated quickly.

From a medical practitioners point of view why should they have to work with sub standard equipment and long hours leading to burn out.

Please consider us as worthy. We are 77 and 73 still working and contributing.