

**Submission  
No 200**

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

**Name:** Mr Stephen Taverner

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I have been a resident of Gulgong for forty eight years. Recently I have become alarmed at the reduction in medical services provided for my town. In years gone by it was possible to report to the hospital (when we had a hospital) and be seen by a doctor. This even applied on weekends. I know from personal experiences as I played sport on the weekends and on a few occasions I needed medical attention.

As a parent of now grown up children I clearly remember several occasions where my boys received urgent medical attention and hospitalisation.

In recent times I have been very concerned that this community was left without the services of a VMO at the Gulgong MPS totally reliant upon a doctor on a screen.

On September 15 Mrs Dawn Trevitt died at our MPS having been taken by ambulance to a facility with no doctor. This shocked and appalled me as it did the entire community.

The population of Gulgong has steadily increased and yet clearly our right to basic health care was neglected. The fact that this community had to fight and mount a petition to lobby government to recognise this unacceptable situation and rectify it is a disgrace.

No rural community should be without access to adequate health care and doctors.