

**Submission  
No 204**

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

**Name:** Mrs Carmelina Leotta  
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## Submission

I have been a member of the Gulgong Community for 39 years and have seen many changes to the health services provided in our little town.

When I first arrived in Gulgong we had a hospital and a few doctors. A number of which could be called upon at any hour.

While in Gulgong Hospital the doctor attended to me during normal rounds and in the middle of the night when called due to unbearable pain related to a possible ectopic pregnancy. There have been many occasions when myself or my children have called upon the services of Gulgong Hospital.

In 2010 our hospital was closed and after much rallying we were granted an MPS with assurances that no services would be lost!

This year it was brought to my attention we had no doctor and our MPS was reliant on Telehealth.

While Telehealth services are useful and assist the community contacting specialists who are located a distance away it should not replace a doctor.

This year I lost a colleague Mrs Dawn Trevitt. She was referred to a Telehealth session when rushed to the MPS. It is unacceptable that any MPS be completely reliant on the Virtual Generalist Service (Telehealth).

After much agitation from some very capable people in the community namely Sharelle Fellows and Mrs Kathy Pearson who have acted as a "voice" for the people of Gulgong. We have been fortunate enough to have a doctor commence work at Gulgong MPS.

However, it has been brought to my attention that there are many country hospitals such as Coolah, Wellington who do not have a doctor. This is not acceptable.

I implore you to take notice of the needs of country residence and return a favourable outcome and equitable health services for rural communities.