

**Submission
No 218**

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

Name: Dr Florian Roeber
Date Received: 8 December 2020

My name is Dr Florian Roeber and I am a veterinary scientist who moved in 2019 from metropolitan Melbourne to Lismore, regional NSW, to take on a new job that required my specialist skill and expertise.

Unfortunately, shortly after my arrival to Lismore I started to suffer from a difficult neurological condition that requires me to regularly consult with specialists medical professionals (Neurologists and Neurosurgeons).

I had to learn that these services are not available in Lismore and that each time I have to see a specialist I have to travel to the Gold Coast, Qld, which takes approximately 1.5-2 hours one way and is associated with significant expense in time and money!

During the COVID border lockdown this was not possible altogether. The diagnosis and treatment of my condition has been delayed and made difficult as a direct effect of these circumstances and due to the lack of local specialist.

I feel disadvantaged because of that and start to regret my decision to have moved to regional NSW. This shortage of adequate medical care in regional Australia is a serious issue that limits the willingness of highly qualified professionals as myself to move to regional towns because it means a disadvantage to them if they fall ill.

I hope that these shortcomings in the availability of specialist medical services in regional Australia will be addressed or I might have to move back to a metropolitan city which would work out to the detriment of the business that employs me and requires my expertise.