

**Submission
No 233**

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

Name: Mrs Annette Piper
Date Received: 10 December 2020

My husband was very ill recently. Unable to get an appointment at the local doctor's office, we presented to the hospital emergency. There appeared to be few staff available and he was put into a room and told to wait until someone could see him. Their computer system was having problems and there was no doctor available, only telehealth.

Whilst telehealth is better than nothing it is NOT the same as a medical practitioner being able to see a patient clearly and ascertain illness. He was told it could be numerous things, bloods taken, given a general antibiotic and told to see the local GP for results when he could get in.

Does this really sound good enough?

The local GP is overwhelmed with regular appointments for non-urgent things. If you are actually SICK and NEED to see a doctor you CANNOT get in. You need to wait a minimum of 3 weeks to get an appointment. The wait times in other centres over an hour away are similar.

We have a modern hospital we SHOULD have a doctor on call for medical emergencies.