

**Submission  
No 242**

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

**Name:** Mrs Judith Bond  
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8<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

Submission to NSW Upper House Inquiry into Regional Health Outcomes and Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW.

Mr Greg Donnelly, Labor MLC

Dear Sir,

I am presenting this submission in the hope that substantial improvements can be achieved to health services currently available in Deniliquin. Our family has lived here since 1985 and feel privileged to have the benefits of living in a lovely rural area with excellent facilities. However over the last 20 years the medical services have deteriorated, making it very difficult for older people and young families to maintain their health.

I am 83 y.o. and for the last 12 months have been forced to drive out of town 75km to Moama to see a G.P. This was because I was not able to obtain appointments at the practice here that I have attended for years. I could not get necessary Care Reviews or Medical Examination required to renew my driving licence before my birthday. The locums who were employed at this practice were mostly very unsuitable, employed because of the shortage of doctors here. It was not possible then to even get on the waiting list at other practices in Deniliquin.

I am very happy with this G.P. who provides excellent care for my health. However, I am finding this 150km round trip to Moama, sometimes twice a week, exhausting especially since the hot weather. On top of this I require consultations and treatment with out of town specialists. I dread how difficult it will be when I can no longer retain my driving licence.

More money must be offered to doctors so that they will move to country areas. To induce them to leave the bigger cities which can offer more and better attractions and more opportunities for employment for their spouses.

Our hospital must keep pace with modern science and equipment. I fear this is not happening at Deniliquin Hospital. Anaesthetists require regular use of their qualifications. However few operations are performed. Doctors need to update their skills, and our hospital is not encouraging them to come here.