

**Submission  
No 273**

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

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My name is Greg Piper I live at Coolah on a farm, I am 66yrs old and I have enjoyed good health all my life. I have been farming since 1982, previous to that I was a teacher in Sydney for 5 yrs. Coolah has had very good health services up until Feb this year, with two or three doctors. We now have one whose books are full.

Having gone through the Sir Ivan Fire, with the entire farm being burnt out (4,000 ac) losing some 1,500 sheep as well as buildings ( house and sheds) followed by 3 yrs of drought and 2 severe rain events, followed by Covid. It has been a tough few years.

Consequently mental health issues eventually arose. Being unable to see local doctor (books full) I tried to see a doctor in Mudgee, some 130 km away only to find a two month waiting time , finally got to doctor and given referral to a psychologist in Mudgee only to find a 5 month waiting time or 2 months for a just graduated learner.

What sort of health system do we run . Are we a third world country?

We hear about all this money and effort going into mental health but the reality is far short of the perceived or advertised information coming out of government departments.

What am I to do ? Do I have to turn up at hospital emergency and threaten to shoot myself to see a psychologist?

Thank you for your time