

Submission
No 280

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 29 November 2020

Partially
Confidential

Dungog Hospital is a Community based hospital and is respected by its community. Staffing levels are at a minimum.

The nursing staff go above and beyond their duties as in charge of the hospital after hours and on weekends when at times we don't have a doctor on call. There is never a doctor onsite at Dungog unless called in by the nursing staff either from the Medical Practice or at home.

There is no clerical support after hours and on weekends which leaves the nursing staff the only people available to answer phones and discharge and admit patients to the facility.

Allied health is at a minimum with Physio only two days per week for example thus making it very difficult to rehabilitate post surgical patients for example. The rehab is left up to the two nurses on duty. In fact there are two nurses on duty only apart from change of shift times. This makes running a ward and an emergency department at the same time, (24hrs per day) dangerous if there are high care patients with an acutely ill patient in the emergency department requiring all the hands we have.

The staff are expected to have a higher knowledge base and learn extra techniques to cater for the lack of allied health including venepuncture, catheterisation, cannulation and many more. Most of them are not paid higher graded duties for learning and practicing these extra skills.

We are remote, we are tired and we are ignored by our own employer... NSW Hunter New England Health.