

Submission
No 284

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 8 December 2020

Partially
Confidential

I am an emergency physician at Nepean and Blue Mountains ED. Blue Mountains hospital has been run into the ground and relies on the goodwill of the staff and community donations to hold it together. We are having so many near misses in patient care due to lack of funding for staff and refurbishments. The staff despair as we want to be able to provide more for the community we belong to.

The building is old and falling into disrepair, we spend excessive amounts on repairs and maintenance that could be used to fund extra staff. We have community support for a new hospital to provide the services they deserve.

We have a desperate need for a geriatrician but have been denied due to funding and are unable to advertise for the position. This, like most regional communities is an aging population. We need to send a large proportion of our community away for services such as geriatrician review, orthopaedic and plastics management, surgical management.

We have patients who fall and injure themselves whilst admitted on the ward because the nursing ratios are too high. This happened yesterday for an elderly woman who has already broken her wrist, ribs, mandible and has an intracerebral bleed from falls in the community. Her daughter has made a complaint that her mother does not have 24/7 supervision and I wonder if I should ask her to complain to our local member in the hope of getting more Nursing staff.

We do not have adequate funding to safely manage patients presenting to the Emergency Department and consistently need an extra evening shift clinician so we can safely adequately and appropriately care for the patients. We need an extra Nurse on every night shift to manage presentations, triages and MET calls (emergency calls) to the ward There is inadequate funds

The staff who are burnt out and reaching the end of their capacity to keep working the intensity of the shifts they currently work. We often do not have meal breaks and if we do they are interrupted. Our shifts can extend to 18 hours and I myself have worked a day shift and returned 4 hours later to work a night shift.

A new refurbished hospital would clearly provide improved patient care and funding for more staff would provide safer care. I do not feel we should wait for deaths or more falls or more bad outcomes. Many of us do not want to keep working in health because we despair of being overstretched and not providing the care we should be able to.

Please fund our hospital.