

Submission
No 286

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 10 December 2020

Partially
Confidential

Five weeks ago my husband became suddenly unwell requiring admission to our local hospital in Condobolin. He was subsequently transferred to the Orange hospital and then flown to Liverpool hospital and is now in St George private hospital. Tomorrow he will be discharged awaiting surgery in January. His surgeon however, does not want him to go home owing to the lack of medical services in Condobolin. There is no on call doctor on weekends, relying instead on remote Telehealth services.

So we now find ourselves having to stay in Orange for five to six weeks until returning to Sydney for the next surgery. Add that to the last five weeks away from home, our accommodation costs are mounting.

IPTAS will help but only covers a fraction of the cost.

The reliance on remote Telehealth in rural areas instead of employing doctors is yet another backward step in the provision of rural health services. We should not have to spend the next month (over the Christmas period) away from home simply because of a lack of GP services.