

Submission
No 294

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 11 December 2020

Partially
Confidential

I will commence with my husband being admitted after a fatal MVA in 2015. 4 days later he started retaining fluid totalling 13kgs over a few days. I had to request an assessment review which Lasix was then prescribed on Saturday. Sunday morning it still hadn't been given until I asked for it. At this stage I could see he was deteriorating & required specialist treatment, a cardiologist as he had previous Atrial Fibrillation.

I contacted REACH who ordered an ECG, Cardio echogram & a referral to his cardiologist who then took 3 days to see him. He just prescribed another fluid medication after checking his results. It seemed as fast as the fluid went, it was building up again. I was not happy with his care & deteriorating condition. I contacted his cardiologist in Sydney for an urgent appointment. My hubby was discharged from our hospital.

On seeing his Dr in Sydney he was told he was in heart failure & had been for a good while. He requested him to be admitted to POW Hospital for immediate care. This was the first of 3 urgent trips he made to Sydney for emergency care. The most recent trip was in August this year when admitted for an amputation of a 2nd toe for osteoporosis. He was told next day to wait at home on antibiotics up to 28 days for a theatre spot & he may spend up to 4 days fasting. On presenting to his Sydney vascular surgeon the next day he stated he may have to excise a v- section in foot because of spread of infection. Fortunately this was not the case but could have well been the whole foot if left for 28 days.

I believe in our case it was not a staffing shortage but a lack of medical knowledge & recognition that caused further complications. My husband is not the only one, our friend has been 17 times to theatre here for an infected knee replacement. He has just returned from a Sydney hospital spending 4 wks having treatment & a skin graft.