

Submission
No 333

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 21 December 2020

Partially
Confidential

Poor or no access to child mental health services . Closest is over 1 hour drive away.

Personally I am a specialist Chemo nurse. Have not had a holiday in 18 months as there is no trained back up staff and no plans to obtain same. It just falls in the too hard basket as there is no work for them outside of providing sick leave and holiday cover to myself and my colleague in our small 2 nurse specialist unit.

Have had to bring my sick small children into work on multiple occasions and have them in a side room as there is no one to replace me and chemotherapy treatment can't be given without specialist training.

I love working rural but we are very stretched. If staff call in sick on wards or specialist areas there is no large pool of staff to pull from and nurses just get landed with more patients.

Weekends and public holidays there are no specialist staff- pharmacist, dietician, speech pathologist and other allied health- this has always been the case and is far from ideal and doesn't happen in city areas.