

**Submission
No 365**

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

Name: Mrs Jessica Elwell
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I am writing out of serious concern about the quality of health care in my hometown of Cobar and surrounding areas in Central Western NSW.

My family moved to Cobar from the nearby town of Nyngan.

Living in a rural town is something I wouldn't trade for the world and I love it out here, but our health care system is broken and that is not ok.

There have been numerous times I have phoned my local Medical Centre because my young children are sick, only to be told the next available appointment is in two weeks or 'sorry we don't have a doctor at the moment'.

In 2019 I had an abscess under my arm and went to Nyngan Hospital with it three times. Each time I was given different antibiotics. I asked the doctor to drain it but he refused and said for that I would need to drive to Dubbo which is almost four hours away.

I have also recently had to travel to Dubbo and back for an MRI after falling from my Veranda and damaging a ligament to my foot. I could not get a moon boot for the injury in Cobar so had to get that from Dubbo as well.

The healthcare system in regional NSW is broken and it's not the fault of the local staff on the ground who are trying to do their job.

There are no doctors and limited services.

If I lived in Sydney, services would be available straight away. To drive from Cobar to Sydney is almost 9 hours.

I pay the same taxes as people in Sydney. Why can't I get the same healthcare.