

**Submission  
No 380**

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

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I am a self funded retiree who was caught up in the failings of the health system but it wasn't the rural or regional system that was below par it was a major city hospital – john hunter hospital – in march 2017 my local rural doctor diagnosed my left hip as needing replacement and sent the required paperwork to john hunter hospital for the procedure to take place at some point . at the time I did not have private health and was told by the doctor I should expect a 12 month wait before surgery as that was the norm for people in the public system that did not have private health.

I waited well over 2 years to hear something from the john hunter hospital , but they would not tell you anything when ever I rang up regarding the issue and then on july 13 2019 I read an article in the Newcastle herald titled secret crisis john hunter outpatient waiting times stretching past 3 years. after I read that article and considering the pain my hip was causing me I decided if this operation was to go ahead I needed to look elsewhere for help . the secret crisis article mentioned that another person that was getting the run around from john hunter hospital with a similar problem went to tamworth and found an orthopedic surgeon that operated in the public system at tamworth hospital and had his medical problem solved so I decided to do the same I drove to tamworth found an orthopedic surgeon that operated in the public system got an appointment with him and was given a date when to expect the surgery.

The surgery took place as was planned and I am now at home rehabilitating so I am one person that can not say enough about the regional or rural hospitals and staff that serve us. Footnote this is only a brief summary of the main things that took place . there were other things that happened like john hunter taking me off their waiting list once they were informed I had sought help elsewhere. If needed I can forward copies of everything that took place over the 3 and a half years and it doesn't orger well for john hunter hospital