

Submission
No 381

**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

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I write to add my voice to the **Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote New South Wales Inquiry**.

Next year my family including 2 grandmas, 2 parents and two teenagers will be moving to **Lightning Ridge**. My son has accepted a Government position there and other factors mean that we have no choice but to relocate from a much larger centre.

However, the **existing medical facilities** and availability of Doctors is of some concern as four of us have **chronic illnesses**. It is my understanding that there are no full time, long term Doctors and therefore no continuity of care for patients. Gone are the days of having a 'family' doctor who you see every time, develop a relationship with and they monitor your progress over extended periods of time.

I would hazard a guess that there will also be no option but to see a male doctor when one might prefer to see a female doctor.

There is also no local **Dentist**.

At this point I'm not too sure of the availability of **allied health** services either, visiting or otherwise.

I do know that the **pathology** service is only open from 9 am for half a day five days a week which doesn't help when you have to have a fasting test and you want it early.

I have no idea what the local **hospital** can offer.

Those in the medical field must be finding it challenging to hold the fort if there is no back-up or relief for them from time to time.

Potentially we may have a 6 or 8 hour round trip (and accommodation expenses overnight) to seek required medical assistance – if we can get an appointment elsewhere.

Admittedly Lightning Ridge doesn't have a large permanent population, however, the remoteness in general, potential for major accidents at opal leases and the regular influx of tourists surely deserves a much better medical service than what is there now.

The bottom line is: we don't want further deterioration of what is currently there and would certainly appreciate any improved services our taxes and Australians anywhere in this 'lucky country' deserve.