

Submission
No 395

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

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We live in Mudgee a prosperous growing town with a brand new hospital.

However....

If we need an MRI we still have to travel to Dubbo, Orange or Bathurst.

We have very few visiting specialists. My daughter needs surgery on her spine and is in constant pain which makes it impossible for her to work. She no longer has health insurance as she has no income. This makes finding a surgeon who would be willing to relieve her pain impossible.

My husband has stage 4 lung cancer and thank goodness he has immunotherapy treatment once a month here in Mudgee. But for radiation he had to go to Orange for a week. For eye surgery he was forced to travel to Orange and hire a driver for four separate trips. His medicines cost a small fortune, sometimes up to \$700 a month.

I have very bad osteoarthritis and we cannot afford my pain medication until the level of our expenditure is so high that the price is lowered to \$5.99 instead of \$49.99 a packet of Endone.

We no longer have a visiting pain specialist and have to travel to Orange, two hours away to get an appointment.

Mudgee has very few doctors who accept bulk billing and the wait time to see a doctor is many weeks.

Regional Australia gets the short stick when it comes to health care.