

**Submission
No 423**

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

Name: Mrs Sharon Bird

Date Received: 11 January 2021

My son was 19 when he first developed the symptoms of a stomach ulcer. He saw the local doctor in Gunnedah. He was referred to the local gastroenterologist in Tamworth and when he tried to get an appointment and hopefully an endoscopy, it was a 2 year wait for an appointment.

I live three hours from the Gold Coast and there was only a one month wait there and being rural, they would have scheduled the appointment so that he could be added to the following day's endoscopy list. I wanted him to take holidays and drive the 6 hours here so that my husband could take him up there but he was reluctant to ask his boss for time off and didn't pursue it because he is a young man and it was too hard for him. There was also the cost of driving here to consider.

Now so much time has elapsed that he is no longer on our private health insurance policy and he will have to go through the public system if he needs an endoscopy.