

**Submission  
No 430**

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

**Name:** Mr Keith O'Maley

**Date Received:** 9 January 2021

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Some time ago I had an episode associated with my heart. I went to the Mudgee hospital and admitted for tests. I was then transferred to Dubbo hospital. Mudgee told me that no matter what, I would stay a Mudgee patient.

Once at Dubbo, Dubbo cancelled my Mudgee admission and admitted me to Dubbo. After testing they decided that I had had a heart muscle spasm, there was nothing seriously wrong and discharged me. When I asked about transport back to Mudgee, I was informed that that was my problem. When I said that Mudgee had stated that I would remain a Mudgee patient, the reply was basically "too bad". As I had been transferred by patient transport vehicle, I questioned why I could not go back via the same method. The answer was "you're not sick so no way".

Dubbo then offered to arrange a community transport vehicle at my expense. I was unemployed and had no money for that. To me I had 2 choices, hitch-hike with the real possibility of trying to hitch in the dark or sleep on the street that night and hitch the back next day.

It was after this, I remembered that I was possibly eligible for free travel within NSW so I went to the railway station and enquired. I was, so was able to catch the train to Lithgow and then the bus to Mudgee. The vehicle trip Mudgee to Dubbo takes about an hour and a half. The trip home took 10 and a half hours.

I feel that, I should have remained a Mudgee patient, I should have been returned to Mudgee by patient transport and now wish the situation be addressed so that it doesn't happen again to any other person.

I respectfully submit this for your consideration.