

Submission
No 440

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

Organisation: Medical Staff Council Blue Mountain and Springwood Hospitals

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There is desperate need for a new health facility at the blue Mountains area; preferably to combine Blue Mountains and Springwood hospital into a single hospital in the mountains facility.

There have been major upgrades in other health facilities over the past few years including major enhancement and new facilities at Westmead, Blacktown, Nepean, Lithgow and even Bathurst hospitals. However, despite desperate need the Blue Mountains and Springwood hospital missed on such enhancements. Despite medical staff dedication to offer the best care possible, it is frustrating not to be able to do so. The Blue Mountains electorate deserve better. There are few points below:

Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital and Springwood Hospital are ageing infrastructure and facilities no longer fit for purpose, expensive to maintain or bring up to Building Code of Australia requirements.

Buildings not fit for purpose to deliver contemporary models of care (built 90 years ago). Land site at Blue Mountains ANZAC Memorial Hospital is land locked with no room for expansion Location of Springwood Hospital is problematic as it has limited public transport options and is located in a suburban environment.

Over the next 20 years the Greater Sydney Commission and the Western Sydney City Deal will drive growth in education, health and industry sectors with employment hubs in Katoomba, Penrith, Richmond and Windsor.

Increasing chronicity of the population will mean increasing demand for more complex services for chronic diseases. Currently the elderly population need to travel outside the area to obtain these services.

There will be a 36% increase in the number of Emergency Department presentations to the One Hospital in the Blue Mountains by 2036. Demand for health services in the Blue Mountains will increase by 63% in the next 18 years.

The population in of Blue Mountains Local Government Area is projected to increase by 10% over the next 20 years, with 90,400 people residing in the Local Government Area by 2036.

The Blue Mountains Local Government Area population is ageing, with a projected increase in the number of people aged 70 years and older increasing from 9,750 people in 2016 to 18,350 people by 2036, an increase of 88%.

By 2036, people aged 70 years and older will make up 20% of the total population, compared to 12% of total population in 2016. 70% of residents aged 65 years and older are receiving the Aged Pension.

High rates of adults are overweight (37%) and obese (26%).

Alcohol attributable hospitalisations (842) and deaths (18.4) per 100,000 population are higher than for the rest of New South Wales at 670 and 15 per 100,000 population respectively.

Deaths from Cardiovascular Disease (159) and Circulatory Disease (159) per 100,000 population are significantly higher than the New South Wales rate (155 and 154 respectively).

Worse rates than the rest of New South Wales for the use of antenatal care for pregnant women.

41% of all hospital care for Blue Mountains Local Government Area residents is provided at private facilities, mainly for Psychiatry, Orthopaedics, Diagnostic GI Endoscopy, Rehabilitation and Ophthalmology.

Excluding private facilities, residents travel out of area for 73% of their inpatient care, with 51% of services provided at Nepean Hospital.

90% of the Blue Mountains Local Government Area residents requiring surgery currently travel out of area for their care, mainly to Nepean Hospital (55%).

The main reasons residents travelled out of area was for Orthopaedics, Acute Psychiatry and Renal Dialysis (9% of total separations), Gastroenterology, Non-Subspecialty Surgery and Diagnostic GI Endoscopy (6% of total separations).

Patients receiving care at Blue Mountains District Anzac and Springwood hospitals are predominately local residents (66%), with 19% from Penrith, 4% from Blacktown and 3% from Lithgow local government areas.

Blue Mountains and Springwood hospital are only one of the few facilities that don't have onsite associated Medical schools. The Sydney University has offered to establish a new clinical school at the new single hospital in the mountains facility. This would greatly enhance the number and caliber of professionals that will train and subsequently stay in the area to enhance a local dedicated medical workforce.