

Submission
No 490

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 15 January 2021

Partially
Confidential

I wish to provide the following submission to the Legislative Council's Inquiry into Regional and Remote Health

I have been disappointed to see the limited investment in regional & remote health services over the last decade. There is an urgent need for greater investment in regional & remote health in Australia, both for the health and rights of our population and extension for the economy.

Australia's rural hospital sector is in ruins. In 2018 I was admitted to hospital in a military town on the border of Libya, during a civil war, which had superior facilities and in which I received better care than I did when admitted to an Australian hospital a year later. We can do so much better.

I currently reside in Wentworth Falls and have required admission to Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital in Katoomba. This hospital is in desperate need of extensions to its capacity and services. Transferring patients to Nepean or Westmead Hospitals is expensive for the taxpayer and harmful to patients. As the population of Western Sydney expands – and as surplus population move into regional areas surrounding it - we need to invest in the regional hospitals which ring this region.

Katoomba has been excluded from the significant infrastructure upgrades that have been made to other hospitals in recent years. Like other regional hospitals it requires investment – and the health outcomes from doing so will be substantial.