

Submission
No 502

**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

My husband and family live in Gunnedah NSW. We have no GP here, we have to travel to Tamworth to see a doctor, often waiting several weeks for an appointment.

Whilst we are reasonably healthy, we are now, 64 and 54 respectively.

It's is likely in the coming years we will need to see a doctor more frequently.

We need locally trained and qualified GP practitioners, and hospital based doctors in both GP practices in town and at our local hospital. It is not good enough to have locum doctors from overseas, whose English is sparse and whose training and adherence to NSW Health Policies and Prodeures is loose at best, on short term contracts.

Whilst they may fill a short term need, they have no connection or investment in the health and well-being of our community.

My son's partner is pregnant. She has to travel to Tamworth for her antenatal appointments and tests. She will have to give birth in Tamworth, a 65minute car trip if the roads are clear.... and if she makes it. Again, our local hospital needs full time, locally trained and qualified doctors to be staffing the hospital and providing these basic services. The hospital could do with midwifery rain antenatal clinics and a midwifery run birth suite supervised by a GP obstetrician or an Obstetrician.

NSW Health needs to prioritise health care and health services for country areas instead of treating us a second class citizens.