

Submission
No 503

**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 experience was as a daughter after my father had a stroke.

In short the lack of resources & access to specialist services had a profound & detrimental effect.

The most simple example is that one of the functions that was effected by the stroke was his swallow, which meant he was nil by mouth until he could be deemed safe to eat & drink (perfectly reasonable). However as there was only one speech therapist over 3 hospitals in this LHD, it meant if he for example failed on a Monday, he would not be reassessed until her next visit the following Monday, so his weight loss was rapid He also didn't have access to early and specialist rehab services.

The difference in this scenario is going home or going to Aged Care.

For both him and us it was catastrophic.

Rural people deserve equity.

Towns live (or die) on good health care and good schools - not a lot to ask.