

Submission  
No 514

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

There are many benefits to living and working in rural NSW. There are however some major health challenges. The most significant of these is reliable access to doctors. Accessing an appointment to see a GP is very difficult, if possible at all. More often than not there is a three to six week delay to getting an appointment. Quite often patients will be told that they cannot make an appointment at all as there are none available. There are simply not enough doctors in our regional communities.

I personally experienced this recently, it was four weeks to get an appointment for a biannual check up and a referral - it is not surprising people don't get the check ups they should!

The doctors who are in the regions are often working extended hours of 80 plus hours per week. This is also not acceptable. There needs to be more doctors encouraged to join regional medical practices. In addition there is a need to appoint registrars to regional hospitals to relieve some of the pressure for existing medical practitioners.

Critical also is the need for these doctors to be more well trained in fields such as obstetrics, aged care, pediatrics or orthopedics so that they can effectively refer patients to specialist as required or treat them locally.

Thank You