

Submission  
No 531

**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

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Partially  
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I am a healthcare worker. I have been nursing for 10 years, in various roles and with various employers. I have worked in general practice, acute care, community care, palliative, intensive and emergency care. Most recently, I have become a midwife too. I also live in a small town of 10,000 people. At the moment, we have 4 doctors. We have one additional GP Obstetrician who only sees women for pregnancy care.

That's one doctor to 2500 people. We have locum doctors flying in cover our emergency department because our local doctors are overwhelmed with patients but this causes issues for admissions from the ED to the ward. Who does the locum hand over care of that patient to, when they fly home? And now that we have only one GP/OB, who covers his much deserved leave?

To add to our woes, we have also lost our contract with our pathology provider as well. So we've had a part time maternity service, going on bypass to our bigger tertiary centre, each evening to ensure women are given safe care, and blood transfusions if they need them.

We've spent goodness knows how much money on private taxis to transport urgent pathology to that tertiary centre to be processed - it's hundreds of dollars each 150km round trip.

We literally have people at risk of dying because of a lack of healthcare provision in the country. I'm originally from the city and I get it, country folk are out of sight, out of mind. But they deserve evidence based, safe care, if the same standard you city folk expect. Please. Do whatever it takes to attract more doctors to rural areas.

Train them up, incentivise their longer term commitments. Increase the budgets so that nursing ratios are safer - the ratios are worse out here than in the city.

Please. Listen to us. We're desperate.