

Submission
No 534

**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

Consequences of Doctor shortage for my family... My father suffered with chronic pain for years after a work accident in 1984 & also had emphysema later in his life. He had pneumonia twice in the past few years, which he was hospitalised both times & advised if he became so unwell again to seek medical assistance. In August 2020 my Dad started becoming very unwell again, Mum tried to get him an appointment with his local GP or any other doctor at their surgery, there were no appointments available & they were advised to go to Gunnedah Hospital. The nurse on duty took Dads obs & did a Covid test, we don't have an issue with the nurse.

They waited several hours for the locum doctor, who was from the city. This doctor was rude, uncaring, had a lack of understanding & compassion that day. He told my parents he couldn't do anything for Dad until covid results came back, listened to Dads chest, told Mum to take Dad home & wait for covid results, see his own doctor & have a chest xray done, they were at the hospital because they couldn't get an appointment. Mum told the doctor she was worried Dad had pneumonia again & felt he needed to be admitted. This doctor told Mum there's nowhere for my father until his results came back & even if its negative he'll have to go to Tamworth.

Mum asked if he could at least arrange the xray for Dad, with which the doctor responded "it's too much trouble for the staff to gown up just to xray your husband". We feel this city doctor did not want to be in our little town at our small country hospital seeing our country patients. Isn't he suppose to treat the ill, not be a "pig" (my mums words). This doctor didn't ask anyone if there were options for my Dad that day, he pretty much turned him away. My Dad went home 19th August 2020 feeling so unwell & we can only imagine so rejected, he was very emotional, kept crying & telling my Mum how much he's always loved her, he got up the next morning, watered his beloved garden, told Mum while she was still in bed that he's watered the garden & she won't have to worry about it for a few days, he then went to his shed & took his life around 9.30am 20th August 2020.

We have since been told by the hospital there were options for my Dad that day, but the locum doctor didn't even ask anyone, he just turned my Dad away. Please put yourself in our shoes as a family listening to our Mum blame herself for coming across this doctor on that day, his actions had consequences for our family. We need more doctors for our town.

Thank you for your time.