

Submission  
No 535

**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

I would like to make a submission stating the disgraceful inequality of rural doctors compared to placements of city doctors. It takes us weeks not days to be able to see a doctor in rural areas & we feel that some doctors that do come to the western area are being treated extremely poorly & therefore are leaving or certainly being discouraged from remaining in rural practices.

It appears that Western Area Health particularly have a real problem with their ability to be all encompassing to their rural doctors & prefer to treat them with a confronting attitude & without support hence the difficulty attracting or retaining dedicated & professional doctors in the area. I think it is appalling that country people have to deal with Tele health (sometimes from overseas) whom are quite often not aware of our distances to local hospitals & are completely inadequate in certain circumstances as was proved with the lady from Gulgong who died recently.

Country health services are very very inferior to the health care & access to doctors that our city citizens enjoy. We would appreciate a shake up at Western Area Health & to have qualified Doctors in our region. The new Hospitals are great but without doctors they are not going to be effective.

The shortage of rural doctors is alarming & needs to be addressed urgently.

Thank you for accepting our submissions.