

Submission  
No 565

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 13 January 2021

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Partially  
Confidential

I was born and bred in Cobar NSW, but no longer live there. My mother has been in the local aged care facility for the last two years. She is in the nursing side of the facility and is no longer able to look after herself. Cobar has recently had a new hospital built and I wanted to express my disappointment that Cobar does not have any specialists visit the town.

My mother requires to be reviewed by a specialist who is based in Dubbo but she has never had a face to face appointment with him because she is not fit enough for the 6 hour round trip to Dubbo, so all of Mum's appointments have been via telehealth conference calls. Between Mum's doctor, the aged care facility and the specialist there has been a lot of miscommunication and delays with making these appointments, cancellations and making these appointments actually happen.

I feel that there is not enough doctor's in Cobar and feel that Mum's doctor has to much work on his plate. I understand that the doctors and aged care facility staff are doing their best with the resources they have, but why should people in regional areas be disadvantaged because they don't access to medical resources like people in the City's do? I get concerned that my Mother's condition might be diagnosed incorrectly because she is not seeing her specialist in person and not able to get scans done etc. like people in the City's can.

Also I am under the understanding that there is no longer a patient transport service to Dubbo anymore for people who need to go down for check ups. What happens if an elderly person can't drive them self to Dubbo or don't have family in town to drive them? I strongly feel that Cobar needs specialists visiting the town, even if it's ever 3 months or so and the town needs more permanent doctors.

More money should be put into regional health and these people should not be disadvantaged or forgotten about.

Thank you.