

Submission  
No 581

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

**Name:** Miss Michelle Guest  
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Partially  
Confidential

I suffered a Workplace injury in January 2017 and was sent to hospital in excruciating pain at Gunnedah Hospital. I was seen by my local GP who did tests and treated me and I have needed ongoing medical care from this date every month or sometimes more often than that when I've needed to attend hospital for chronic nerve pain which is the outcome of my injury.

Even though my injury has healed I will suffer with the pain for the rest of my life because my brain can't switch off the pain. It has been a nightmare for myself and my family to say the least.

Unfortunately I have had to travel to Newcastle to see a private pain specialist who has been amazing and has tried everything he can to help me and I've been approved to have the last treatment that is available to me through my pain specialist but my WorkCover insurance won't help me, so I'm fighting them in court for it. My pain specialist has me at the top of the list to have the treatment because my pain is so severe and it puts me in hospital often. It is so expensive to pay to travel so far away coming out of my own pocket and trying to support my family when I can't work. This isn't anyone's fault but the insurance company but it does make it hard having to travel so far away in so much pain and no money.

Unfortunately after being treated by the same GP Dr [redacted] for 3 years he decided to move back to Sydney so I was left without a doctor and they put me under the care of Dr [redacted] at Barber Medical centre in Gunnedah, which I'm so grateful for. I will be seeing doctors for the rest of my life and need a doctor otherwise I can't have my medication as I'm getting scripts filled every week and month for pain relief. I currently take 20 pills a day for pain relief and I have been for the past 4 years and I'm only 35 with three kids.

Sometimes it's very hard to see Dr [redacted] as his one of the only doctors left in Gunnedah that local people can see. His had to drop so many people as patients as he just has too many and can't keep up, my mother being one of them. She suffers from arthritis all through her body also and needs to see a doctor for several things but unfortunately will now have to travel. She doesn't drive either so this will be hard.

Some days I can't get my script off the doctor who just fills it by me ringing the doctors surgery and I go and pick it up or have it delivered to the pharmacy and I pick it up from there. Some days he just doesn't have time to do it and I have had to go without that puts me in more pain than I'm already in and can be devastating as I have to attend hospital hysterical and they have to give me needles and tablets to help the pain and calm me down. The more worked up or stressed I get the worse the pain gets as it's all through my brain. It's destroyed my life to say the least and I suffer severe depression and anxiety because of it.

I will most likely never be able to work another day in my life and knowing some days I'm not going to be able to see my GP on time or get my medication on time scares me so much because the pain gets that bad that it makes me want to die. Even though I really don't want to die, I would never want to leave my kids, but the pain is just so severe and it feels like my body is on fire. It's torture and I just wish we had more facilities and doctors available here

at the medical centre and the hospital so we don't have to go without and suffer more than we already do. It's really not fair and I would do anything to change this.

I know how hard the doctors here work and it's really not fair on them either. They also have families to go home too and spend time with but would never get to do this because they are so tired and worn out.

I'm begging anyone that can help change this situation please please do everything you can to help us.

Much love,  
Michelle xxxx