

**Submission
No 583**

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

Name: Ms Ronda Payne

Date Received: 15 January 2021

Wellington has a very mixed population, including aged, aboriginal, and many on welfare. At the moment we often have to wait up to a fortnight for an appointment at the local medical centre.

This is unacceptable no-one should have to wait that long to see a GP.

In the case of an emergency we do have a hospital but, it is often not staffed by a doctor.

Nurses who do a good job should not be left with the responsibility of having to deal with these cases without a Doctor. A consultation by phone with a doctor somewhere else in the state is not the same as having one present.

We have heard of cases across the Western area where tragedies have occurred because they are also understaffed.

We desperately need to have a System available where Doctors come to country areas to support local populations.

There needs to be decisions made to ensure equity between Metropolitan and Country cities and smaller communities.

Having scholarships available to people who would then come to the country for a specified amount of time would be one way to encourage more Doctors to rural areas.

Having registration numbers for country areas could also help. Rather than handing registration out and allowing them to be used in any area (eg Sydney region).

Something must be done to help with giving rural people a comparable access to a doctor that the Sydney and large rural cities get.