

**Submission
No 597**

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

Name: Ms Jane Leake
Date Received: 15 January 2021

I am a primary producer and also hold down a fulltime, off farm job and on Friday, January 1, 2021 I was involved in a farm accident which required a visit to the local hospital emergency department.

While the individual staff were wonderful, I believe the system failed again. It was apparent that while I was not in a life threatening situation there were no services available to meet my needs at the brand new Inverell Hospital and I was told I could either go home and report to the Armidale hospital the next morning for surgery to stitch the gapping hole in my right calf or I could stay in the hospital but they couldn't guarantee they could get me an ambulance ride that would get me to Armidale to meet the window of opportunity the next day.

Obviously I elected to go home and be driven to Armidale the following day which resulted in 50 stitches in my leg. The following Monday the surgeon actually phones me to inform me my injury is fairly serious in that he effectively repaired a large flap and I will need to spend the next 2 weeks "on the lounge" with my legs up.

By Tuesday, the pain in my other leg had become so uncomfortable I sort the support of a local Dr who ordered an xray, which thankfully proved clear but he insisted I attend his clinic every two days so he could monitor which resulted in the need to reintroduce another course of antibiotics.

Twelve days post surgery, I attended the Armidale hospital for review by the surgeon and he appeared shocked to discover my Left leg was also damaged which he had not been initially made aware off. Another course of antibiotics have been ordered and an emergency physio appointment referral, but Inverell Hospital can again not deliver on this request. While the Inverell region has a flash, shinny, new facility it obviously does not have a management system in place to adequately support the people of the region and by this I include the wonderful grass roots staff who do their individual best to support their community.

Our region has so much to offer but if we don't have efficient health services we can't support our region to grow and the government has wasted money on a white elephant in this shinny, flash, ineffective facility.