

**Submission  
No 599**

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

**Name:** Mr Paul Nealon  
**Date Received:** 15 January 2021

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To whom it may concern, I Paul NEALON currently of "Marombi" Coolah NSW wish to make this submission in regards to the declining health services we face in our isolated rural communities.

I am a 52 yr old married Australian man with 2 children 16 & 14 who attend a school in rural nsw. My wife who was born & bred here also works at the central school where my children attend & it is 1 of the hubs keeping our rural town of Coolah alive. My job of permanent employment is over 170 km away in Muswellbrook & due to the ever increasing housing prices in NSW has seen us have to move further afield.

We enjoy our rural lifestyle & the different interests & opportunities it brings with it but to be able to continue we require certain essential services & their amenities to be operational. Coolah has a rural hospital facility that houses its own X-ray machine & at times not that far gone a dental clinic & pathology collection centre, as well as being a functioning albeit limited hospital with emergency dept.

It currently has NO residential or attending Dr's & relies on "Telehealth". The township has only this month lost its last private clinic Dr leaving Coolah with no emergency or GP services. I fear that with the declining services & health risks we now face in our rural area we may be forced like so many others to move closer to the coast at the cost of another rural town.

With a fast ageing community health services now & into our future are an essential requirement if we want to see Coolah survive as a rural hub to its surrounding towns & villages.

I thank you for receiving this submission & look forward to your correspondence in this matter, with regards (a very concerned) Nealon family.