

Submission  
No 609

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 14 January 2021

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Partially  
Confidential

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I'm 63 years young and live in Condobolin, a small rural town located in the centre of NSW and part of the Lachlan Shire. I have raised two children in Condobolin and been involved in school, community and sporting organisations for most of my adult life. I am also still working and active in the community.

We are a predominately rural community with some local industries and we also have our share of welfare and aged recipients, who will have need for medical treatment at some stage. We are located 200kms from either Orange or Dubbo base hospitals and if treatment is needed urgently two hours can seem like a lifetime.

As you move further away from the major cities the plight of health care seems to dwindle, as we seen at Mudgee recently. Condobolin has also had its tragedies over the years though. But eleven years ago, a young couple seeking help for their young son, was returning from Dubbo, both parents were killed and a little boy who hadn't made his first year yet lost his parents and that hit Condobolin hard.

Condobolin has rallied before to retain health services but the powers that be don't seem to care, because we have lost our maternity ward, operating theatre and things like a full-time physiotherapist. You have to travel out of town to access most things these days which is okay if you have support. Ambulances aren't always available as we share with other places which are 100kms away.

Over Christmas New Year break were without a doctor for nearly two weeks and that is not acceptable. We need doctors. They are a very important part of any town or cities life blood.

The health industry needs to realise not everyone lives in big cities. There are people beyond the Blue Mountains.