

**Submission
No 616**

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

Name: Mrs Angela McCormack

Date Received: 14 January 2021

I have been attending the same GP practice for over 30 years. I go to the doctor possibly twice a year when I have a problem. I don't annoy the doctors for preventative checkup appointments as there are people more in need than I. My normal GP left unexpectedly, I found out through social media. When I did ring to make an appointment I was told I no longer have a doctor and to go somewhere else. The practice would 'welcome me back" when more doctors arrived.

This was also my mother's doctor. I then had to help my 77 year old mother find a new doctor - an hours drive away. I printed off webpages of doctors so she could read them, she doesn't do the internet. She was quite anxious and not sleeping, because she worried she did not have a doctor if something went wrong. She now worries how she will be able to get to Tamworth to see her doctor if she needs to as I work full time and may not be able to take her. It is so sad to watch her stress about something that should be OK.

When the prime minister's wife asks women to still go for regular check ups it is laughable. Regional folk do not go to doctors for preventative care. The GPs are too busy and want to whip you out quickly. It is not their fault. I am grateful I don't need to feel a second rate citizen and beg for help like so many other in the town have to do.

Being in a private health fund is no help - there are no doctors or specialist to go to!

Why?