

Submission
No 624

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

Name: Mr Peter Meyers
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Partially
Confidential

Hello, my submission is based on personal experiences at Dubbo Hospital.

Just to give you some context to my opinion of the Hospital I can tell you that I do not even have Dubbo Hospital listed in my contacts as it is actually listed as "Abattoirs".

I will start with the least recent case that affected my life.

Late one evening during a game of Field Hockey I dislocated my ankle and was driven to Dubbo Hospital. During my time at the Emergency unit I was given some pain medication and then was taken for X-rays.

It actually was 1 (one) X-ray only. According to staff members the Radiologist on call was unhappy about being called back in at 2230hrs, for a couple of patients.

To my surprise I was informed that the information from that one X-ray showed no break and I was told to walk on it and treat it like a sprain.

So I did, for 2 days.

I was in such pain that I was constantly crying so we went to my GP who informed me that it was impossible to dislocate my ankle and not break it. So we had X-rays and scans taken and they showed 5 different breaks.

Needless to say my ankle has never been the same again.

A similar occurrence happened to my wife after being taken to the hospital by Ambulance and warned of the impending outcome having a broken ankle only to have it dismissed by the Radiologist as a sprain, once again after 1 X-ray.

Worst of all is the most recent life changing events at Dubbo Hospital.

The events that changed the lives for ever of 4 small children and 2 parents, as well as the rest of her family and friends, of my beautiful daughter Jasinta.

December 2018 my grandson calls for an ambulance because his mother has had some kind of Fit type episode and was laying unresponsive, naked on the kitchen floor, in front of her children.

The ambulance took her to hospital and Doctors started treatment.

I arrived sometime later and was absolutely mortified to find that the Emergency Doctors had been treating her for a drug related event.

No matter how much I insisted that it could not possibly be a bad drug reaction they were so insistent that they were correct there was no way to get them to look for any other cause.

I provided them with information about treatment and the Specialist's name that had previously diagnosed Jasinta with a problem in the blood flow in the rear of Jasinta's brain. I also provided scans that Jasinta had done when it was first diagnosed.

The absolute disregard for anything that we provided or added verbally was dismissed with no regard whatsoever.

The family members that were present all felt the absolute arrogance of the two very young and obnoxious residents on duty.

Jasinta was flown to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital approximately 8hrs after the original call to the ambulance.

RPA diagnosed her with a severe blood clot and performed surgery from which she never recovered.

Jasinta was pronounced Brain Dead 2 days later.

Living in Regional and Rural NSW has become a life threatening or life taking decision for many residence.

After the events at the hospital, I applied to have a Root Cause Analysis undertaking. This was denied by the Hospital and NSW Western Ares Health Service.

How can things change to help with better outcomes if there is no investigations into the causes of events.

Jasinta's was a single mother and her 4 children are now separated and yet life goes on as normal for those who's decisions led to this outcome and by those responsible for this I mean everyone from the Premier down.

Out here we say that the NSW only stands for Newcastle, Sydney, Wollongong and continued outcomes like these is only going to reinforce that feeling for the rural and remote residents.

Further to this complaint is the fact that I was diagnosed with a severely blocked Left Carotid Artery, almost 4 months ago.

The surgeon told me that my surgery was urgent and to wait for any extended time would be life threatening and wanted my surgery to take place as soon as possible.

In his words, within the month.

My surgery is scheduled for next week in Liverpool Hospital if I am alive. I could have a Stroke at any time.

Being bed bound for this amount of time is an absolute joke. The mental and physical toll that it has taken on myself, my wife and family has been extraordinary.

As I said before, these are not fair and equitable conditions for all residence and all our politicians should be appalled.

Nobody truly represents the rural and remote in NSW politics because there is not enough votes in it.

Building expensive hospitals to make it look better does not fix the cause. In honest words, "no matter how much you polish a turd, it is still a turd"

Thank you for this opportunity.

Peter