

**Submission  
No 632**

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

**Organisation:** Hay Shire Council  
**Date Received:** 15 December 2020

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## Hay Shire Council

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Hay Shire  
COUNCIL

Ref:

30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC  
Chair  
Portfolio Committee No.2 – Health  
Via: NSW Parliament/Committees/Inquires Portal

Dear Mr Donnelly,

### Re: Submission

#### **Inquiry into Health outcomes and Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW**

Were to your media release dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and subsequent 'Term of Reference' for the new inquiry into health outcomes and services in rural, regional and remote NSW. Hay Shire Council, at its meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November, resolved to make a submission to the inquiry. We make comments as follows:

- Hay Shire Council is a supporter of rural health. Council provides assistance to local General Practitioner (GP's) in form of Medical Centre facilities, housing and vehicles. This assistance costs local ratepayers, on average \$???? Per annum.
- Council is concerned at the lack of doctors attending our local hospital.
- Council is concerned that Telehealth, while is a great initiative to support local GP's, is being used to replace doctors in rural communities as a cost saving measure.
- Council believes the provision of health services in rural communities is very important and at times is not comparable to our metropolitan or even regional cousins.
- Council is concerned at the lack of mental health services in the local area and believes the Griffith Base Hospital redevelopment should include mental health beds/units.
- Council is concerned at the lack of local full-time nurses leaving the Hay Hospital, with seven (7) nurses leaving in the last two years and currently replaced with agency staff.
- Council believes that further reinvestment of Medical rebates back into the local community will assist with provision of local health services. Council is concerned at the process that allows State Government to intervene and use Medicare Rebate funds as general revenue for health operations without input from local committee(s)
- Council invites the Portfolio Committee No2 – Health to attend Hay Shire to see firsthand the great work local staff and the community undertake in providing health care services in Hay.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Hay Shire Council is willing to participate in further discussions if required. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of your inquiry.

Yours faithfully

David Webb  
General Manager