

Submission
No 648

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 11 January 2021

Partially
Confidential

Wayne Jones told us in person in front of Chris Gulaptis a couple of years ago, he knows Coraki Needs a GP. Chris Gulaptis published in newspaper a while back his mission was to get a GP here. Quest to get one has been referred to Primary Health Network. Nothing has happened.

We can't believe or comprehend why it hasn't happened except that NO-ONE gives a damn.

Coraki lost a hospital, got a HealthOne that hardly anyone goes to. We are a depressed community, previously having had 2 GP's & good health services. We have to travel for a GP. We have to travel OUT of Coraki for most services.

Although there is a dental service at HealthOne people have still had to travel to Ballina or Goonellabah for dental work, because they only do rudimentary dental at Coraki. I have seen a physio here once, the only time I've been helped there.

My main point in all this is that Coraki & surrounds people are really suffering without a GP here. We put OFF getting medical assistant, & use home remedies. Reason being, feeling too sick to drive at the time, but NOT quite sick enough to use an Ambulance.

Instances I have had, & I'm only one person here: fell off a ladder - didn't know how injured I was but waited to see - had a long deep scratch up my thigh, & felt very sore in several places. I took it easy & treated myself - ended up with a lot of bruising & didn't go to a GP at all, but would have that day if a GP was here. I broke my ankle, didn't hear it snap, thought just a sprain, treated it myself - but extremely painful; next afternoon drove myself to LBH. Had an infected finger that needed lancing. Treated myself, but very painful! All instances I would have gone to a GP soon after, if we had one.

When sick/injured it is hard to drive, or feeling too unwell to drive to Casino, Lismore, Evans Head or Ballina. Older residents have trouble with this especially, this aspect of No Doctor here.

I/We feel neglected & picked on by the Health Service. We are saving them money by Not getting medical attention when we need it & do so wonder what we have done to be treated so badly by them. Our economy is affected, morale is low, people aren't as healthy all since our hospital was killed, removed, & replaced by a service centre that gives us LESS than we had before.

I asked Chris Gulaptis/Health Service to apply for Federal money to put a public GP in that building to service here & make a functioning business model that would be more attractive & probably sooner to be to be SOLD off to a private GP. He did not respond to the question!!

We did a survey over 2 weeks ' would you go to a Coraki GP if we had one?'. 567 adults signed. That didn't include their infants/children. Survey WAS given to Health Service, Chris Gulaptis & Kevin Hogan. Nothing happened. No-One gives US assistance on this, & we here in Coraki are already doing it tough for a long time, we so need a hand up & have been asking for assistance for ages. We are a disadvantaged community. We are lower socio

economic. We ask RVC for help here - they take little no notice of what we would like. They say yes to us about some simple things & do the opposite. Eg 2 years ago asked for a basketball hoop on disused concrete slab on Riverside opposite SPAR, for youth here. They agree, Still isn't there. Our Riverside development still Not finished in 10 years. Richmond Terrace they said at a town meeting was a money pit & they'd let it go - make into one way street or close to traffic & make walk only. They fixed it 6 months ago!

Our heads hurt from the crazy of what & how our official public service providers behave. They are treating us bad & we don't deserve it. We want advantage too, like they enjoy.