

Submission
No 653

**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

I have been a NSW nurse for 18 years. Recently I had my heart broken when my elderly but healthy neighbour was forced to wait for a week in a peripheral hospital to get a bed at a base hospital for cardiac care. After a week of waiting for the bed he became critically ill prior to a bed being made available for him.

Now, 6 weeks later he survived 2 surgeries and is now fed through a tube. His life was compromised purely because he was from a country town. Quite simply he almost died. His family came to say Good bye. Now he is on the very slow road to recovery, but may never be able to swallow again.

Sadly, the swallowing issue was caused because of being intubated for so long. If he had been transferred within 24 hours of admission to the first hospital, then there is a great chance nil of the more serious issues would have happened. Should he die because of his choice to live in a country town? No, no he shouldn't.