

Submission
No 662

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 12 January 2021

Partially
Confidential

The current situation with lack of G.P.s in Wellington is creating hardship for many older residents, particularly those who have trouble using public transport, as the nearest GP is in Dubbo when there are no appointments available at the few G.P.s in town. There are 3 main alternatives. 1. Taxi...cost in excess of \$100 return..far too expensive for pensioners. 2. Ogden's Bus Service...cost only \$2.50 but times may not always suit and the route may not always cover the address of the required GP. 3. Live Better Community Transport. Cost \$40 to \$50 Cheaper than taxi but still expensive for a pensioner. Also at times of high demand a car may not always be available at the required time of the day.. The answer has to be more GPs in Wellington.

Suggestion: Could Dubbo Base Hospital be made the centre of a cluster comprising Narromine, Gilgandra and Wellington. The hospital would then be funded to employ newly trained doctors on condition that they be prepared to do shifts as required in any of the 3 outlying hospitals as well as working in Dubbo.