

Submission
No 679

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 22 January 2021

Partially
Confidential

Submission Entry

I am a RN 8 working on a 36 bed ward in a category B regional hospital with surgical, orthopaedic, urology and gynaecology patients.

Unfortunately we do NOT have the 6 NHPPD. The government promised more nurses and 6.0 nursing hours and yet we have seen nothing. Our unit is always open up to 40 and 44 patients 4 to 8 patients above what our FTE is. There are also often “pods “ of surgical patients in other areas of the hospital usually in the Maternity ward which has to be staffed by the surgical ward thus stretching our staff further. On top of this any patients that have to go to appointments outside the hospital requires a staff member to be taken off the floor to escort the patient to the appointment often taking several hours.

This has created an environment where it is a daily occurrence to have staff asked and expected to do overtime. There has been shifts where there are four staff doing double shifts. In the past week I have been asked to do double shifts on two days and requested to come in early on my nightshifts. There was a situation during the last week when 2 staff members where taken off the floor to escort patients leaving one new graduate RN with 10 patients.

These staffing issues mean that on a day shift teams of two staff members have 10 patients and teams of three staff usually an RN an EEN and an AIN can have 15 patients. This has created an environment of staff that are exhausted and fatigued. Something terrible is going to happen one day and the nurses will not only have to live with that forever, but will also be under investigation and potentially lose their career. Our community deserves better.