

Submission
No 688

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 29 January 2021

Partially
Confidential

Parliamentary Inquiry:

Health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales

Submitted by:

(Mudgee Citizen)

Key Point:

The availability of face to face Mental Health Support Services in Mudgee is severely lacking.

Supporting Information:

My experience living in Mudgee is that the community's need for Mental Health Support Services is far greater than the supply of services.

The majority of private psychology and counselling services are not taking on new clients, due to already long waiting lists.

Public Services are available through Community Health, but I assume the lack of availability of private sector practitioners, is putting strain on the public system.

Recommendations:

Private Sector

Review the situation in rural and regional towns.

Consult with peak Industry and registering bodies for psychology, counselling etc on how to encourage practitioners to rural and regional towns such as Mudgee.

Allocate funds for government grants to support employment of new practitioners to increase services in these areas.

Public Sector

Review the situation in rural and regional towns.

Consultation with Community Health Services and other Public providers of Mental Health Services in rural and regional towns like Mudgee.

Allocate appropriate funds to resource and increase Mental Health Services delivered by these public services.

General

Raise awareness through the parliamentary forum and other political platforms that Mental Health Support Services in rural and regional areas are lacking and need to be addressed, not only through the public sector, but solutions found to encourage private sector practitioners to rural and regional areas of NSW.