

**Submission
No 691**

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

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NSW Council Committee Parliament Inquiry Number 2 into Remote and Rural Health

Submission by Danny Beran, Rural Doctors Association of NSW member Re: access to health services in rural Australia.

Existing Frame of reference focuses exclusively on the hospital sector, and to ensure sustainability of access; primary care and Federal Government support **MUST** be included; and **critically** terms of reference are silent on both these crucial issues.

Current fiscal modelling under rewards nursing and GP staffing, and this workforce presence and interface is crucial to service sustainability.

IT availability with associated infrastructure must be used efficiently to ensure access to the most needy (Elderly, disabled, remote etc); and is in keeping with recently announced Federal Telehealth continuation.

Reference is also silent on the support of the Fed Government to ensure Primary care support exists outside the hospital sector and is clearly critical to the fragile ecosystem of rural service delivery.

Evolving rural care, has an ever-increasing demand for mental health, and GPs are the community cornerstone to manage this increasing demand. If the GP workforce sector is not supported, this increasing demand on EDs will escalate rapidly.

These thoughts summarise my considered views in this vexing population health challenge.

Sincerely

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