

**Submission  
No 1229**

## **INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA**

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As a rural midwife in north west NSW, I have witness over the past 4 years countless (over 100) cases of laboring women having to be transported or in the majority of cases drive them self to another birthing facility as their local service is closed due to staff shortages. Some of these women have to drive 70-120km from home to the closest available birthing facility. This is often at night, with other young children or alone. This is dangerous and potentially life threatening. Far too many women have birthed without a professional on the side of the road putting her life and the life of the newborn baby at unnecessary risk.