



Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

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Name: Healthy Communities Foundation Australia
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[Submissions - Healthcare Funding Inquiry](#)

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Name

Mark Burdack, CEO, Healthy Communities Foundation Australia Ltd

Email

Message

I am writing to express the interest of the Healthy Communities Foundation Australia Ltd in making direct representations to the Inquiry at planned hearings. The Foundation is headquartered in rural NSW, and has worked for 20 years with rural and remote communities to successfully establish and maintain community health and hospital services, and medical workforce in rural towns.

The Foundation has a strong background in community-led health planning; rural health and medical workforce development; and, innovative models of care.

We have a strong track record in delivering successful solutions to the challenges of delivering sustainable and cost-effective solutions to rural health and hospital needs.

We have a particular interest in:

Reforms to the structure, size, governance, functions and accountabilities of Local Health Districts to improve how we drive management performance and the accountability of management for the delivery of care.

Reform to procurement processes within NSW Health to reduce waste and improve accountability.

Addressing the reported culture of bullying, harassment, intimidation and cover-ups in health that have impacted on its ability to recruit and retain talent, and undermined community confidence in the ethical management of health and hospital services.

How to improve community engagement, including accountability for engagement outcomes, to reduce waste in health programs caused by a lack of community ownership or engagement in design.

Reforming population health, health information and community health to make it more responsive to community needs and to reduce waste, and improve the effectiveness of service coordination.

Better targeting of performance indicators to community health outcomes, to drive performance improvement across the hospital system and ensure hospitals are meeting community needs in more cost effective ways.

Proposals to reform medical education in NSW to stop the excessive waste of millions of dollars on programs that have not solve rural doctor shortages.

Recommendation on reforms to the implementation of new technologies to ensure that they do not undermine quality and health outcomes.

The Foundation has more than 20 years experience solving problems in the health and hospital system. We would like the opportunity to engage with the commission in a frank assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the system, and provide advice from a community perspective on the types of reforms needed to bring the system back into alignment with community needs and expectations, and tackle the escalating cost of hospital care to the NSW Budget.

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