



Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding

Submission Number: 138
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Fiorina Gibbons

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Message

I work as Lung Cancer and Melanoma Clinical Nurse Consultant for the Western Area Health District. I feel very frustrated by the lack of support offered to regional and rural patients by the government. Those living in these areas have limited health resources, terrible access to reliable, consistent transport and limited medical and social supports. The access to general practitioners and nurses should be of critical importance and urgency. Lack of health care at a base level results in significantly worse outcomes and costs when preventative and timely treatment could address these issues. This makes me feel helpless as a health professional when it could be so much better. I rely on charity groups to ensure patients are able to even attend treatment - without them patients would simply not be able to afford travel or accommodation during treatment. In addition, allied services during cancer treatment are simply not available in a way that is easy to access or timely for most regional and especially rural patients. The current financial supports offered by IPTAAS do not make up for these inequities.

I implore the commission to identify solutions to address the inequitable distribution of health care services within the state.

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