

From: [Tania. Rattray](#)
To: [rur](#)
Subject: Govt Admin A Rural Health Inquiry
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Good afternoon Committee Members,

I have received representation from a number of constituents who are Dorset residents in the North East of the State who are interested in rural health services. These constituents don't feel they are in a position to make a submission to the Inquiry and have asked me to bring forward to the Committee their concerns. I am also aware that these concerns are shared more broadly in the community and feel that it would benefit the Inquiry to be aware of these views that I believe not only affect the Dorset Municipality but also extends at some level to the Break O'Day community.

Please find below points of concern –

North Eastern Soldiers Memorial Hospital (NESMH) –

- No admittance to the hospital for persons under the age of 18 years – this is a significant negative impact on a rural community when local ambulance services are intermittent and also the recovery process for a child being long distances away from family is of concern.
- Physio services are only provided once a week and this nowhere near adequately meets the needs of the community.
- Increasing demand for A&E services due to the significant increase in visitors to the area who ride mountain bikes, which cause multiple injuries and are requiring the services of both road & air ambulance, along with accident and emergency admissions (both at Scottsdale & St Helens). The staffing at the NESM Hospital appears to be so paired back that there will be a lack of confidence in the community around the ability to meet rural health needs.

Regarding the dedicated ambulance service located at Scottsdale time and time again I am reliably informed that there is often wait times of over an hour for an ambulance to attend a call out due to no ambulance available (required at Derby Mountain Bike Trails) with a back up ambulance having to come either from Georgetown or the Launceston station. I am aware of a situation where a person living in the town centre of Scottsdale waited 3 hours for an ambulance in the early hours of the morning due to required rostering of break times for the ambulance staff, I am sure you can imagine the stress that this situation caused to the person requiring the ambulance services and their family waiting for these services to arrive.

Another constant issue that is raised by the community is the lack of access to GPs and other health professionals including mental health services. Both Scottsdale and St Helens have OCHRE practices and the not only the churn of GP locums causes anxiety amongst the community, but also the wait times to see a GP can be anywhere from days to weeks.

I understand that the Committee will be receiving submissions from members of the Dorset area which may cover some of all of these matters raised but I felt it important to make sure the Committee was aware of these matters that have been raised directly with me and that I am aware of. I would certainly be available to expand on the issues raised should the Committee require this.

I wish the Committee all the best as the Inquiry progresses to address issues of importance to the health and wellbeing of those living in rural and remote areas.

Kind regards. Tania



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