

**Submission
No 6**

OPTIONS FOR ESSENTIAL WORKER HOUSING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Michael Poyser

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I have lived in Bourke for 5 years as the Station Officer for NSW Ambulance.

I have rented the only ambulance residence at market rates from the Ambulance Service, that seems to cover rates, insurance and some of the repairs required, its actually across the road from the only pub in town which plays extremely loud music on a lot of the nights through the week that pounds through the walls of the house which does not allow me to get to sleep until midnight, which is when my oncall phone begins to ring for night work so of course I can get very fatigued due to lack of sleep before and after midnight. Its suffering due to termite damage caused by blocked drainage into the roof.

Due to lack of suitable rental accomodation in Bourke I have for much of the time sublet rooms to other paramedics, thats a sacrifice I have made personally to enable the people of Bourke to have paramedics live in the town with them. The ambulance house is very small and not very private, single bathroom, and 3 paramedics living and working together for long periods of time is not great.

Other paramedics have had to resort to sharing small houses together which is not really a good situation, people who work for the government out here really deserve their own space to live in, its an isolated country town a long way from family and friends and the young people that come to work here deserve better support for what they do for the community.

Suitable accomodation in Bourke means houses which are insulated for heat and cold and fitted with refrigerated air conditioning which will both cool in summer and heat during winter. Much of the private rental accomodation in Bourke is very old and does not have these features which is an absolute necessity in the extremes of summer out here.

Private rental accomodation is very hard to source here as most of it has been taken up by overseas workers who live together and work at the local abbatoirs. Health workers attached to the hospital have accomodation at the hospital or hospital housing, teachers have accomodation supplied as do police, our paramedics have nothing, much ambulance accomodation from days gone past has either been sold or condemned due to no budget being made available to do repairs, this has been going on for years.

Various "inspectors" are sent out by Assets and Infrastructure from Ambulance or NSW Health in Sydney to inspect our ambulance residence here and write a list as long as their arm in what needs attention and repairs, the answer comes back "we have no money" and the repairs are sourced from shrinking budget in the Dubbo office which deletes their funding in other areas. NSW Ambulance seems to have no funding provided to supply accomodation for staff in isolated towns as NSW Health does.

My fear is that as housing becomes harder to source in Bourke that paramedics will simply begin not turning up for work here when appointed and seek work in other areas of the health workforce

Yours faithfully

Michael Poyser Station Officer

Bourke Ambulance Station