

8 September 2020

The Hon. Brad Hazzard
Minister for Health
NSW Government
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

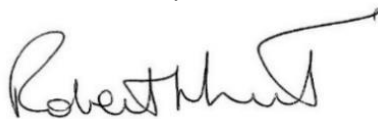
Dear Minister Hazzard

I am writing to draw to your attention a gap in the current Queensland Government directives that prevents healthcare workers from providing essential services to vulnerable patients in northern NSW. As NSW Minister for Health it is essential you are aware of this issue.

As you would be aware, it is common for healthcare professionals to live in a Queensland border town or city and travel upwards of an hour to provide services to towns in northern NSW, further than the currently identified border town postcodes. The current directives from the Queensland Government allow for residents of NSW to travel into Queensland to access essential healthcare or to provide essential specialist healthcare. However, the current directives do not account for the common situation of Queensland residents travelling to NSW to provide essential healthcare services, in particular to those who cannot travel to seek them and for whom telehealth may not be appropriate (e.g. older adults and people with disability).

I request as a matter of urgency that you liaise with the Queensland Government so that dietitians are granted a border pass exemption to travel between southern Queensland and northern NSW, beyond the identified border town postcodes. These healthcare professionals who routinely travel to northern NSW are an integral part of the workforce in these areas and failing to allow them to continue to provide services will greatly disadvantage the health of people in these northern NSW communities.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hunt
Chief Executive Officer