

Inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system

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About months ago I was unwell with cold and flu symptoms for a few weeks. I knew that I could not see a doctor therefore I made a telehealth appointment only to be told to go get a covid test and come see me when the results are negative. I was so sick that I could not get to a covid test clinic and took 2 days off work. My employer needed me to return to work as possible. I work in the early childcare sector and as you are aware, staff are hard to find. I returned to work not feeling well but had to push through. The following Monday I went to work still unwell and my employer sat down with me and said to go get the covid test so I could get to see a doctor. 48 hours later I received a negative covid test and went to make a doctor's appointment but nothing was available. I made a home doctor appointment, only to be told that there was not one in the area but they could offer me a telehealth appointment. The doctor called and offered me antibiotics with no care for my detailed information. To this day, six weeks later, I still feel unwell. My body hurts from the constant coughing, lack of sleep, and breathlessness. I did not go to a hospital for three reasons. One, I didn't feel it was life-threatening. Two, I did not want to wait hours and hours to be seen as well as frowned upon for coughing, etc. Three, I had no one to get me there. If only a doctor could have seen me properly and given me the proper health check, I may have been unwell for a short period of time. My co-workers thought I would develop pneumonia. Who knows but I know I wasn't well and needed help. On previous occasions, I have been seen by a doctor in the car park. Listening to my chest with my shirt up, in the car park at the surgery which fronts on the main road. No privacy and no respect for privacy. To add insult to injury, I was charged full price for the appointment and criticized by office staff for not paying the invoice straight away.