

# Enabling improved access to health care services

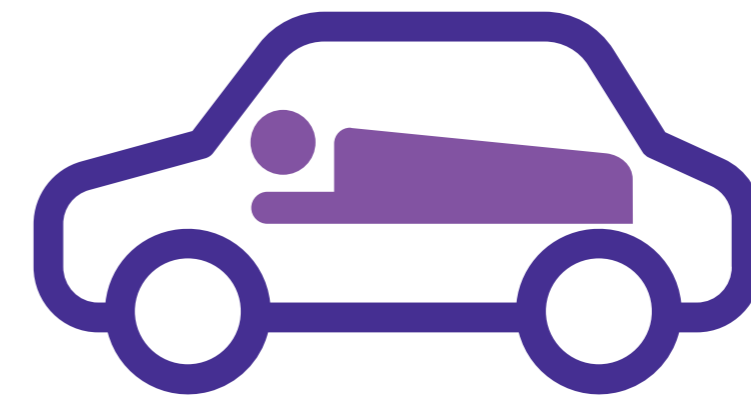
## The unmet need:



"Australians living in **rural and remote areas** tend to have **lower life expectancy, higher rates of disease and injury, and poorer access** to and use of health services, than people living in major cities."<sup>^</sup>



**Farmers** represent a group at higher risk of a range of **health problems**. Factors influencing this risk include poorer access to healthcare services.



**Costs force** country patients to **sleep in car parks** to be near to hospitals.



"People living in remote areas of Australia often need to **travel long distances** or relocate to attend health services or receive specialised treatment."<sup>^</sup>



People living in **rural and remote Australia** are more likely to **face barriers** to **accessing healthcare**. The cost of healthcare (including associated travel and accommodation) is higher with increasing remoteness.

## Open Support's Strategy 2020 Objectives

- Increase the accessibility of health care to persons in all regional NSW areas, as well as across Sydney.
- Ensure hospitals and local health districts promote the accessibility of affordable accommodation and transport programs available across NSW.

## How we address the unmet need?



Provision of **no cost transport** to clients for regional and rural areas



Provision of **affordable low cost accommodation** next to Westmead Hospital precinct



**2,177** trips  
**20%** trips for indigenous clients  
**46%** trips for clients over **65**  
**25%** trips for **children**



**233** families supported with accommodation  
**996** room nights in Chisholm Cottage  
Saving **\$80,000** in accommodation costs for clients