

To Whom it May concern,

I am most grateful that there is an inquiry in this area. I am happy to be contacted if you need a case study. In brief my mothers situation:

Lived in remote Lightning Ridge. Lived in a Kombi van with no running water and electricity.

History of mental illness and then over last two years this became complicated by dementia.

Refused to see a doctor. I had to get guardianship- this was easily obtained however the model for implementing guardianship orders for older people with complex problems in isolated rural areas needs review. Dealing with the 'system' appeared more problematic than trying to deal with my mum on my own.

In the end and without using any coercive powers my mum became hospitalised and a diagnosis of dementia was given at this tricky time. Then we had the nursing home saga.

My mum died last September (aged 84) after just five months in the system following a very long and hard two years for me trying to manage my mums situation by remote control from Sydney over 800 kilometres away. The Lightning Ridge Community was excellent but it was mostly the services who didn't have a mandate to respond to my mum that were the most helpful. Mental health do seem particularly useless if the issues are chronic and then complicated by another level such as dementia.

Happy to have my mums case used as some sort of case study. Just contact me through this email if that helps.