

**Submission
No 40**

HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT (SPLITTING OF THE HUNTER NEW ENGLAND HEALTH DISTRICT) BILL 2025

Organisation: Wee Waa Aboriginal Land Council

Date Received: 11 April 2025

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are a younger cohort overall compared to the total population of Wee Waa. These people have similar health risk factors to the general population but in some cases at a much higher risk.

In most cases Aboriginal people do not want to leave their hometowns to receive care in another hospital in another town where they do not have any connections.

Aboriginals tend to have a higher rate of ED presentation for mental and health wellbeing and are less likely to speak up during consultations, especially those via telehealth.

43% of students at the Wee Waa High school are aboriginal.

In general, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are likely to have more difficulty accessing health services when needed. There are number of incidents where people have been transported to Narrabri hospital for treatment and then released often late at night with no way to get themselves home which means that many of them choose not to present at all.