

**INQUIRY INTO STATE RECORDS ACT 1998 AND THE
POLICY PAPER ON ITS REVIEW**

Organisation: Far West Local Health District

Date Received: 8 May 2020



Our ref: D20/3444 F951/02

Adam Lindsay
Executive Director
State Archives and Records Authority of New South Wales
And Living Museums

By e-mail: govrec@records.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Lindsay,

Inquiry into the State Records Act 1998 – Far West Local Health District Response

Thank you for inviting the Far West Local Health District (LHD) to make a submission to the Inquiry into the State Records Act 1998. The Far West Local Health District has reviewed the Policy Paper and Terms of Reference and offers the following comments.

The Far West LHD supports the proposed reforms and the four policy outcomes, including the emphasis on good governance and accountability by ensuring that records documenting activities and decisions are well managed, preserved and widely accessible, to support contemporary government and meet community expectations.

Factors constraining public access to and use of the documentary and material heritage of NSW

In January 2015, Broken Hill, the 'city in the desert,' became Australia's first National Heritage Listed city in recognition of its outstanding significance to the nation in the development of Australia as a modern and prosperous country, including its pioneering role in the development of occupational health and safety standards. The workers of Broken Hill and surrounding communities have made significant contributions to the construction and development Broken Hill Hospital and Health Service. Indeed, the local museum has a substantial and permanent display devoted to the medical history of the region.

Due to space constraints and a previous amalgamation of the Far West LHD under the Greater Western Area Health Service, many of our historic corporate records are now stored in Orange, NSW. While this does not impact on the day-to-day operations of the LHD, there is a risk that people making decisions about what records to cull might not appreciate the significance of individual documents and artefacts. Far West LHD would welcome a system being put in place to prevent the loss of historically significant data.

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I look forward to learning about the outcomes of this important Inquiry.

If you require further information or clarification, please contact Ms Diana Ferry,
Executive Officer, Far West LHD, on [redacted] or email [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

Umit Agis/
Chief Executive
[redacted] May 2020