

Submission
No 114

**INQUIRY INTO HEALTH OUTCOMES AND ACCESS TO
HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SERVICES IN RURAL,
REGIONAL AND REMOTE NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 2 December 2020

Partially
Confidential

This was sent to Nathaniel Smith. I now have another issue that needs attention. I fell off my horse on Friday 25th September 2020 in a riding lesson at Fitzroy Equestrian Centre, Fitzroy Falls.

This is not my first fall but the first time my instructor called an ambulance. This was a good judgement call on his behalf but sadly not a great outcome for my recovery or experience. I am very angry, disappointed and concerned about what happened next.

It took over an 1/12 hours to arrive, coming from the Shoalhaven area as Bowral ones were too busy. It was a patient transport van and not an ambulance.

I am an Occupational Therapist with 38 years experience working in adult rehabilitation and still work in this area.

In that 11/2 hours waiting for the ambulance I walked up and down the side of the arena holding onto the railing to test out my hip. The instructor kept going to check where the ambulance was as they may have missed his property? When he came back I was told to sit down because he gets into trouble for letting people walk around when ambulance arrives due to issues around concussion. Which I understand. But the fact I could walk and had established in my own mind I was not concussed as I have experienced concussion before coming off my horse it was more important to keep walking and to see if I could finally weight bear through my right hip.

Finally after an hour and half providing my own self guided intervention I could put weight although tentatively through my right hip and at worst I thought I had fractured my pubic rami.

So by the time ambulance people did their assessment they agreed I was not concussed and at worst had possibly fractured my pubic rami . So they suggested an X ray.

This now was 2 hours after my fall and if i had sat on the stool like the instructor wanted me to do I may have never walked again. All the research suggest the earlier you get going and provide first aid RICE the better your outcome.

At this point I discharged myself from the service as they would not take me to Bowral Hospital even though I live around the corner from Bowral Hospital. They said I would need to take myself there for an Xray but they would not as not a trauma hospital.

Question 1 : Do you think that is an acceptable timeframe ie 1/12 hours to wait for an ambulance?

Question 2: They wanted to take me to Wollongong or Liverpool Hospital as they were the 2 trauma places. I live around the corner from Bowral Hospital. They determined at best I needed a x ray of that right hip but would not take me there as they would get into too much trouble.

I live on my own so who is going to drive me to Bowral Hospital? Again any time this was going to take to get an Xray was hindering my recovery.

Question 3. If I had allowed them to take me to Wollongong and/or Liverpool. I live on my own. Can you please tell me because that will obviously be a future experience if they do not take anyone to Bowral with trauma. How do I get home from there??

Question 4. I discharged myself from this far from satisfactory experience. Do you understand why I am angry.