

**Submission
No 199**

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

Name: Mrs Sally Empringham

Date Received: 5 December 2020

Issue - poorly staffed hospitals/ poor access to services.

X-ray - Warren Hospital (MPHS) - have an X-ray machine but no one to operate it.

2.5 hour round trip for an x-ray on my daughters broken arm last month. Return trip to see a physio and have the cast removed. Rang hospital and was told that it couldn't be reviewed at Warren. How is it possible that there is a machine but no staff to use it?

Pregnancy services - non-existent in Warren or Nyngan Hospitals. We stopped at two children as we were 1.5 hours from an ultrasound or Doppler to assess. Decided it was not worth the risk to have another child. It is not reasonable to have to travel that far for a basic emergency check that could be reviewed remotely.

Endocrinologist - Dubbo Base Hospital - 2.5 hour round trip from home - no endocrinologist. We have to do a 12 hour round trip to Royal North Shore to see our specialist. How is it possible with all the diabetes and thyroid patients in Dubbo and Western NSW, that there isn't an endocrinologist?

Paediatric care - the last time we had a child needing hospital care, we went to Warren to be told that any child had to be sent to Dubbo as they were not 'registered' or allowed to provide care to children for more than 6 hours. They needed to be discharged or transferred. Sometimes an iv to rehydrate and monitor is all that is needed, but we need to travel 1.5 hours instead of be looked after in our town? How is this possible?

Warren Hospital has been downgraded to the point that it is a nursing home and palliative care facility only.

Those who govern the health system are failing our local residents. We are not getting a higher standard of care, we are getting less care as people (especially those who are at risk in terms of socio economics) are choosing not to access care due to distance.