

Submission
No 619

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

Name: Ms Emma Priest
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Partially
Confidential

My now 8 year old son was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on the 7th of April 2020 when he was just 7 years old.

We went to our pharmacist who contacted our Dr and was told to go to the emergency department at the hospital. The staff were wonderful, we were transferred to Tamworth to be with paediatric staff and diabetes educators.

My son ended up with gastro on we had to go to the hospital after 5 vomits and because I was unable to bring his diabetes levels up. He also had low range ketones. High ketones can be very dangerous.

We got to the hospital at 4pm. We were seen to quite soon by the Dr on, the nurse gave my son a hypo kit which consisted of 2 dry biscuits and a hypo gel pouch. 'Y son had this and then vomited again. They gave him another hypo pack with the same things in it. He proceeded to vomit again. The nurse then gave him an anti nausea tablet under his tongue. This did not help he kept vomiting another 5 times.

The Dr was on the phone to our closet referring hospital being paediatric team. The Dr kept saying that my so was fine.

In this time ketones went from .08 to 1.8. The Dr still wasn't doing anything. No fluids were given even when my son was unable to keep food/ water down and his ketones were rising. I had to finally step in after 4 hours of being in the emergency department and demand he be put onto fluids. I am in no means medically trained and I find it so frustrating when I had to tell 2 nursing staff and a Dr that my son needed fluids.

We were finally given the fluids and an ambulance was called to take us to base. We were at the hospital for 5 hours. The last hour we were there was the only time my son was given treatment.

Yes nurse and the doctor were checking on my son but absolutely no medical treatment was given until I demanded it.

I will not take my son to the hospital again. He needs care that the staff are not trained in.

We are not the only family in with a family member with type 1 diabetes. If our own staff don't have any understanding of treatment for them then they need training. This disease is a medical condition and if us parents are expected to drive an hour away with our sick children just for them to be cared for then our whole medical system is stuffed.

This is a very big issue type one is a life or death disease. Parents shouldn't have to feel that they have no one in our town's hospital system that can help when our children are sick.

We don't go to the hospital for just any reason it's only when we are unable to physically make our children better. We should be entitled to the same care of anyone that has when they go to hospital.