



Health
Western NSW
Local Health District

“Pharmacist, Where Art Thou?”

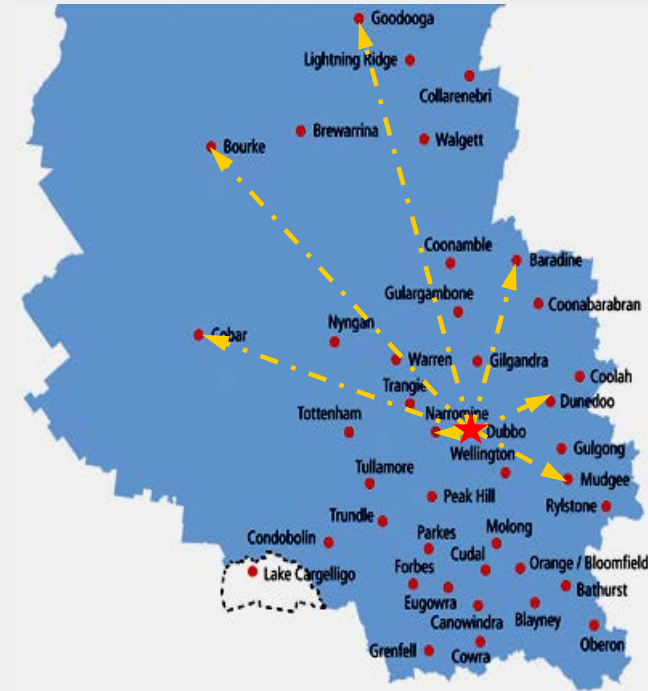
**Building Partnerships with a Rural Palliative Care
Multidisciplinary Team**

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Constant Challenges

Western NSW LHD Palliative Care Service covers a large rural and remote geographical region

- Geographical isolation of patients and clinicians
- Lack of access to clinical support and care coordination
- Logistical challenges with medication and service provision



Distance of service provision from Dubbo Health Service:

- Goodooga = 415km (4h 30m)
- Bourke = 370km (4h)
- Baradine = 200km (2h 30m)

Pharmacy Taking on the Challenge

Allocation of a Pharmacist to formally join the Palliative Care Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

- Attend MDT meetings to review medications and make recommendations
- Review palliative inpatient management
- Provide information and advice to patients and carers
- Provide special access medications
- Resolve logistical issues in medication distribution
- Provide clinical support and education to health professionals

What are the outcomes so far

- Improved quality of symptom management
- Improved safety and quality use of medications
- Development of stronger working relationship with colleagues
- Continual Pharmacy support

What we hope to achieve

- Diminish the disparity of patient access to care and services
 - between metropolitan and rural/remote areas
 - within regions of the Local Health District
- Enhance the quality of patient care and use of medications within the Local Health District

“Many people have a role in Palliative Care. What’s important is how we work together.”

- Sue Hanson

Co-Chair, Agency for Clinical Innovation, Palliative Care

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