



NICHOLE CALLAN

Proud Gomeroi woman from Baradine

RN/ Clinical Coordinator



“Every child should have access to paediatric healthcare, regardless of location”



**Artwork by Mary Small and
sister Lila Gordon**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to acknowledge the land in which we stand today as Aboriginal Land. I would also like to acknowledge all Elders past and present and all those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples attending today. I would also like to pay a special tribute to Mary Small, a beautiful Wailywan woman from Warren. Without Marys guidance, cultural knowledge, support and friendship we would not have been able to achieve all that you will see before you today.

This presentation is dedicated to **every child living in a rural and remote community.... This is for you**

Today I am going to take you **on a journey.**

A journey that continues **to improve the health and well-being of children across the rural and remote regions of NSW**

THE **BEGINNING** OF THE JOURNEY

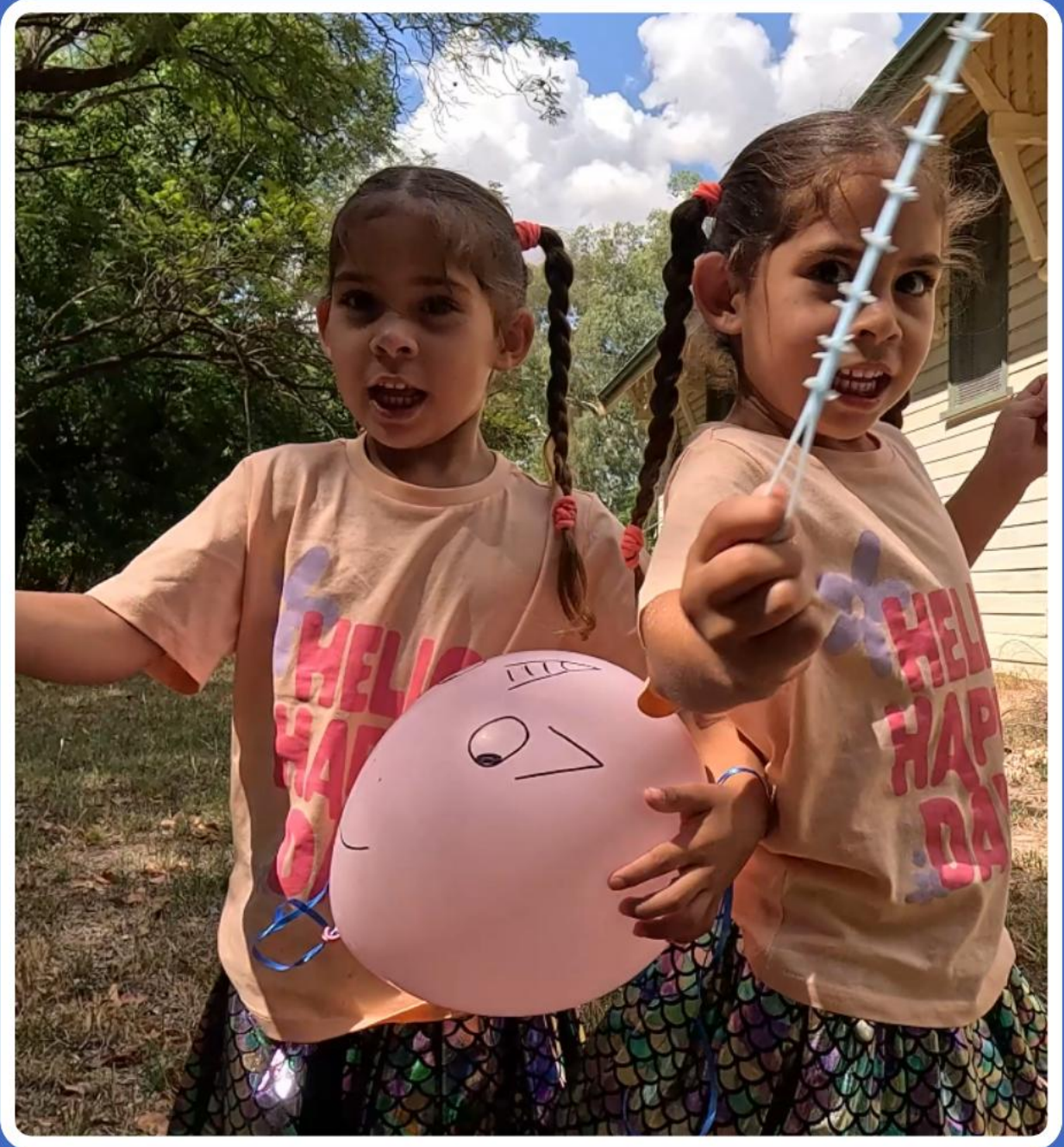
Every child has the right to access quality healthcare and the **opportunity to reach their full developmental potential.**

As Child and Family Health Nurses, we are committed to advocating for children and families and ensuring they receive the care they need, when they need it.



THE BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY

In early 2023, a **critical gap emerged across Western NSW**—children showing signs of developmental delay, global delay, and behavioural concerns had no access to paediatric services.



THE **BEGINNING** OF THE JOURNEY

Despite exhausting every available referral pathway, the Warren and Trangie Child, Youth and Family Health teams were **unable to secure the care these children** urgently required. Families were left without answers, support, or timely intervention.



KEY

KEY PRIORITIES

RESTORE

Restore Child & Family Health Service Address 12–18 month workforce gap (Warren & Trangie)

INCREASE

Increase Aboriginal engagement. Culturally appropriate care; focus on first 2,000 days (Bellies & New Life)

BOOST

Boost early literacy & speech 12/22 children (2023) with significant delay; AEDC below averages (Imagination Library; Indigenous Literacy Foundation)

IMPROVE

**Improve allied health access
Speech Pathology & Occupational Therapy**

ESTABLISH

**Establish paediatric clinic:
48 children need review; 9 referrals (6 months); 8 denied; 8 Aboriginal**





RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS SERVICE GAP CONFIRMED VIA WNSWLHD

Need for local paediatric clinic identified

**Sustainable model: GP, school, or NGO-
based clinic**

Partnership formed with Western NSW LHD &
RFDSSE Warren Medical Centre
Collaboration with Little Wings (CEO Clare
Pearsons) and Dr Iskander to deliver service



Dr Mary Iskander was warmly welcomed by the Warren and Trangie Elders and community members.

Through a partnership with **Little Wings**, a not-for-profit organisation, Dr Mary flies in monthly to provide face-to-face paediatric care—delivering a gold standard of service to children who would otherwise have limited access.



Access to Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy (locally) has also increased, strengthening early intervention and **support for children.**

NDIS representatives now attend clinics, helping families navigate the system and access ongoing supports.



Fully bulk-billed service: no cost to families

**All children seen as required with a GP referral
—no child is left behind**

Appointments prioritised for 0–5 years (first 2,000 days) and all Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander children (Closing the Gap)

Care guided by severity of symptoms and developmental needs, ensuring timely support before children age out



I am currently honoured to be working alongside the Medical Wings team at Little Wings. Together, we have successfully launched four paediatric clinics throughout Western NSW, enhancing access to vital healthcare services for children in regional areas.

My responsibilities involve collaborating with Paediatricians, Specialists, community members, and Elders, as well as supporting and working in partnership with children, families, and related services. I also oversee the establishment and continuing development of the clinics.

Additionally, I provide vaccinations as required during consultations.





Dr Nicholas Wood

Provides a FIFO service for the Bogan Shire the community of Nyngan and surrounds under the Medical Wings Model





Dubbo
Dr Nele Legge



**Gilgandra
Ketaki Sharma**



Often when we live and work in rural and remote communities, we often become complacent. We accept that services are often less or we often feel overwhelmed at trying to create change.

Never accept NO in paediatric Health

It's time to think outside the box

TEAM+COMMUNITY+PARTNERSHIPS = MAGIC

When we work as a team we are strong,
when we work as a community we are stronger
when we work in partnership – magic happens it just does

Together we can ensure that the children of the bush
will not be forgotten.



\$1,000,000
FUNDRAISER

LITTLEWINGS



\$1 DOLLAR FOR DUSTY WARREN TO CANBERRA

WARREN - NEVERTIRE - TRANGIE - NARROMINE - TOMINGLEY -
PEAK HILL - ALECTOWN - PARKES - EUGOWRA - GOOLOOGONG -
COWRA - MORONGLA CREEK - BOOROWA - YASS
MURRUMBATEMAN - CANBERRA

SUN 30 AUG TO MON 14 SEPT

HELPING
COUNTRY
KIDS
ACCESS
LIFESAVING
HEALTHCARE

WARREN



LITTLE
WINGS

