

# Your say

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## Kids will suffer from cuts to hospital's play service

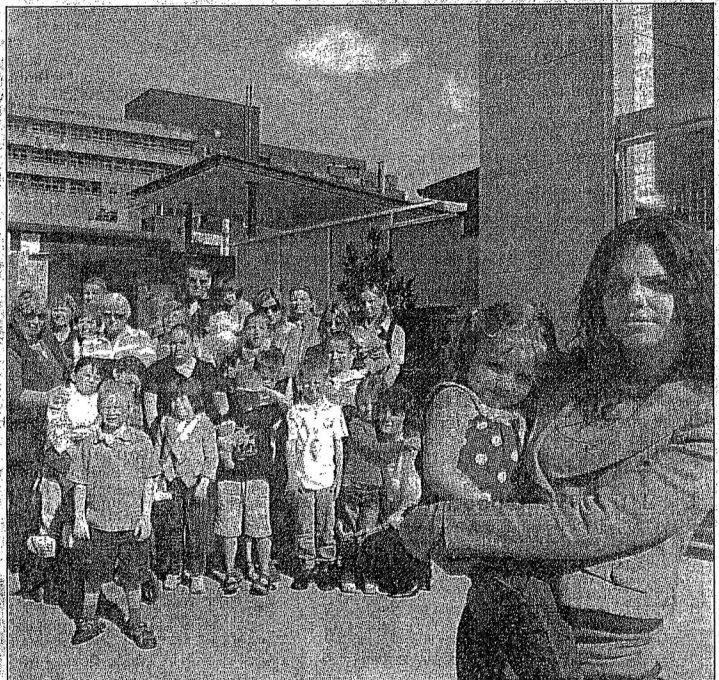
THE Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare (AWCH) is most concerned that the operating hours of the play service at Lismore Base Hospital have been reduced.

The association is a national organisation which has acted as the advocacy voice for children, adolescents and their families in the health care system since its establishment 35 years ago.

We are very concerned that the reduction in the hospital's play services has been undertaken without due consideration to the potential adverse outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The benefits of an appropriately staffed hospital play program in the recovery of children are well recognised and include less emotional distress for both the child and family, better overall coping during the hospital stay, and a more satisfactory post-hospital adjustment and physical recovery. It is very important for children to have a full range of play and recreation programs in all areas of the hospital where children and young people are cared for.

Lismore Base Hospital has a long history of play provision of the highest quality. As a leader in



**MORE PLAY GROUP:** Supporters of Lismore Base Hospital's play service. A child welfare group says a cut in the service's hours will adversely affect young patients and their families.

the area of play at a regional hospital, it has been able to reflect best practice in the provision of play services, which is an indicator of high-quality care in pediatrics.

So it is disappointing to hear that play services have been sub-

stantially reduced. AWCH believes strongly that children and young people should have access to an appropriate staffed play and recreation program at Lismore Base Hospital.

**Prof DAVID BENNETT, AWCH national president, Sydney.**