

**Submission  
No 63**

**THE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY NORTHERN  
BEACHES HOSPITAL**

**Name:** Mr Richard Quilty

**Date Received:** 11 April 2025

I have been a patient at Northern Beaches hospital for a recurring health issue on at least 4 occasions during the time the hospital has been operating. On all except one occasion I have arrived at the hospital by ambulance to be taken straight into the Emergency Department and from there, following assessment, admission to a ward. On every occasion whilst in the Emergency Department, and after advice I am to be admitted to a ward for a prolonged stay, I have been approached, while in the emergency bed, to be advised that the hospital is aware that I have Private Health Insurance and therefore if I will be happy to be admitted to the ward as a Private Patient. On one occasion I asked the reason for this question being asked of me each time and the advice I was given by a hospital staff member was that the hospital would receive a higher payment from a third party if I agreed to being admitted as a Private Payment. The question (which was certainly asked of me every time before I was transferred from Emergency to a ward) is I suspect being asked of every patient who has Private Health Insurance and who comes to a Northern Beaches Ward through the same hospital's Emergency Department. This question has nothing whatsoever to do with my treatment, but is all about the hospital making more money out of some people who present to the Northern Beaches Hospital with a medical issue. It is an entirely inappropriate question, but perhaps it is symptomatic of the way Northern Beaches Hospital is managed by Healthscope.