

**Submission  
No 75**

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

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After long discussions and long fights we (the people of the Northern Beaches) lost our local public hospitals in Mona Vale and Manly.

They were perfectly located along the coastline in close proximity to most Northern Beaches residents.

As a replacement for the the two existing hospitals the NSW government promised us a new modern, much bigger public hospital, This new hospital is much further away from most NB residents and in particular in case of residents of the northern end between Colaroy to Palm Beach it is accessible mainly via a long road that is often even closed due to flooding. In comparison to the service with the previous two local hospitals this is particularly bad for the aging population on the Northern Beaches, where timing in case of an emergency can be critical and decide between life and death.

Now after the new NB hospital in operation since a few years we find that this is all not working as promised. Apart from the long distance we are faced with the problem that in the end the hospital turned out to be mainly a private hospital operated by Healthscorpe that just runs a part of it as a public section. Many of the medical services that were offered still do not exist, so patients have to be sent to other Sydney hospitals such as Royal Northshore and other Sydney hospitals for treatment. In case of Emergency people have to wait for up to 15 hours in some cases before they can see a doctor.

Despite this is a huge hospital, it cannot cope with the demand and the number of patients because being a private operator cost are cut at every end.

So this it is all a huge way backwards from what we had in the past with our two smaller, but operational hospitals. The NSW government's decision to give the whole hospital to a private operator who's only aim is to make a profit is a disaster. The fact that Healthscorpe is now even in financial problems makes the bad situation even worse and it is a widely discussed topic with Northern Beaches residents to avoid this hospital if possible.

The only solution out of this mess is that the NSW government finally stands up to its promise to the public and buy this hospital back from the disastrous private operator Healthscorpe.