

**Submission
No 241**

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

Name: Mr Martin Derby

Date Received: 12 April 2025

Partially
Confidential

I welcome the decision for Healthscope to return Northern Beaches Hospital to public management.

We must have a shift in operational strategy to provide a public hospital that supports the community properly with a high standard of care for all Northern Beaches residents.

There have been ongoing community concerns regarding the management of the Northern Beaches Hospital and the compatibility of the private-public partnership (PPP) model with state objectives.

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Profits must never be prioritised over the health, safety and lives of people.

In the current circumstances, I believe NBH will operate more effectively as part of the public hospital system and not part of the PPP model.

Not all residents in the Northern Beaches area have the option to be covered under their private health insurance (if they have this insurance) due to the high upfront financial outlay required to go private with many opting to go as public patients. It is unfair to categorise people and deny them proper health care because they are public patients. All people have the right to a high standard of care in a public hospital regardless of whether they have private insurance or not.

The operator of Sydney's Northern Beaches Hospital (NBH) has confirmed it is willing to discuss returning the hospital to NSW Health following the government's ban on private-public partnerships.

NBH must be run as a public hospital to support all residents of the Northern Beaches area.

Public pressure has clearly indicated that profits should never be prioritised above people's health.

PPP's in healthcare should never have been allowed to happen in the first place.

There is no place to mix profit with public healthcare in NSW and across Australia.

Healthscope must remain accountable legally, financially, and morally to our community and Healthscope should not be let off the hook or allowed to maximise a financial return at taxpayers' or our community's expense to end the PPP agreement. The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model has failed in the Northern Beaches Hospital as it has prioritised profit over people.

I strongly support the NSW Government's position to ban new PPP's in healthcare and return our hospital back into public hands where it belongs. I strongly support the return of the Northern Beaches Hospital to public ownership.