



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 - HEALTH

MEDIA RELEASE

Northern Beaches Hospital: Upper House committee hands down its report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 February 2020

An Upper House committee has released its report on the Northern Beaches Hospital. The inquiry was established in June 2019 after the hospital experienced serious problems upon opening in October 2018. The hospital is operated by Healthscope Ltd under a public private partnership with NSW Health.

"The citizens of New South Wales have a strong public health system. It is their public health system. They know it, are proud of it and do not want it weakened or undermined in any way. It has been inherited from the hard work of previous generations and there is an unequivocal desire to pass it on to the next, as good as it was received, if not better. At the very heart of it are our public hospitals," said the Committee Chair, Mr Greg Donnelly MLC.

"Sixteen months since the hospital opened, it is now achieving performance standards and results that the committee hopes and expects will continue, and be improved upon into the future. The residents of the Northern Beaches deserve no less. While there are 'big picture' lessons flowing from the inquiry, it was always about the health and medical care needs of the Northern Beaches community, and our recommendations are squarely focused to that end."

"Looming large in all of the committee's analysis and recommendations is the public private partnership on which the hospital was built and will continue to operate under for at least another 19 years. PPPs have come and gone before in New South Wales, and this new creature, with its particular model of a private provider delivering health and medical care to both public and private patients, has exemplified the many costs and challenges that accompany PPPs," Mr Donnelly continued.

"The report highlights the critical need for transparency, and for the Northern Sydney Local Health District and Healthscope to work closely together to mitigate, and as far as possible eliminate the tensions within this model, to ensure the highest possible standards of health and medical care across the entire community."

"The high standards and values of the public hospital system must prevail in this private sector arrangement and the public patient must never have to accept second best. Further work needs to be done to concretise this non-negotiable position at the Northern Beaches Hospital," Mr Donnelly stated.

The report is available on the [committee's website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, Hon Greg Donnelly MLC, on 9230 2280.