



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 – HEALTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### HEALTH SERVICES IN THE SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY GROWTH REGION: TABLING OF COMMITTEE REPORT

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

30<sup>TH</sup> November 2020

An Upper House committee inquiring into current and future provision of health services in the South-West Sydney Growth region has today released its report.

The Committee Chair, the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC, stated: 'Over one million people, 12 per cent of the state's population, live in Sydney's South-West region. It is no exaggeration to say that the population in this part of Sydney is booming and this growth without doubt is expected to continue well into the future. Be it new greenfields developments, urban infill or the launch of the new Western Sydney Aerotropolis, the growth that is taking place in this part of Sydney will be transformational for the region over the next decade and beyond.

"Those who live in South-West Sydney are entitled to have ready access to the same health services available to other Sydney residents. However, there is no doubt that the residents of South-West Sydney are of the view that there has been, both in the past and currently, an inequitable treatment by governments of their health needs vis-à-vis the rest of the greater Sydney metropolitan area.

"Through this inquiry, the committee heard that South-West Sydney's health services were historically, and unfairly, under-resourced even before the recent population growth saw demand for them surge. South-West Sydney has lower overall health funding and lower numbers of health workers per capita than most other parts of Sydney. There is evidence of gaps in services leaving some patients from South-West Sydney waiting longer, or travelling further for essential health care than if they were living in other parts of the greater Sydney metropolitan area.

"This report finds that more must be done, without delay to address the historical under-funding of health services in South-West Sydney. It is imperative to immediately address current shortfalls in funding and staffing, as well as to plan for services that will meet the future growth in the region.

"The report makes 17 recommendations including promoting more equity and transparency in health funding, addressing equipment and staffing issues at public hospitals, increasing the number of paramedics working in South-West Sydney, reviewing the availability of maternity and paediatric services and implementing a more effective preventative health strategy to address the higher rate of chronic health diseases in the region.

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

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC on (02) 9230 2280.*