

Submission

No 11

INQUIRY INTO THE ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL

Organisation:

Name: Ms Suzanne Benson

Telephone:

Date Received: 29/10/2007

Theme:

Summary

Suzanne Benson

15th October 2007

EMERGENCY ACCESS TO ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL

A MATTER OF CONCERN

Addressed to -

1. Mary Jerram - The NSW State Coroner
2. Reba Meagher - NSW Health Minister
3. Jillian Skinner - NSW Shadow Health Minister
4. Quenton Dempster - Stateline
5. Kate Benson - Sydney Morning Herald
6. Matthew Daly - Chief Executive Officer NSCCAHS
7. Mike Carlton - Radio 2UE
8. Eric Roozendaal - NSW Roads Minister State Parliament
9. Fred Nile - Chairman Upper House Joint Select Committee

*Acknowledged
2/11/07
Daly*

Two weeks ago we decided to trial our route to RNSH Emergency Department from Beecroft.

Travelling along the M2 and then the Lane Cove Tunnel, signs indicated that we should take the Reserve Rd. exit on the left hand side of the Gore Hill Freeway - the only sign seen so far. However Reserve Rd. took us to the back entrance of the hospital where a boom gate stopped our entry and a sign indicated that to get to Emergency we had to go to the Pacific Hwy. entrance at St Leonards (a considerable distance away). Further investigation showed that RNSH is situated on Reserve Rd. which runs between the Pacific Highway, St Leonards and the Gore Hill Freeway. A boom gate stops entry on the Gore Hill side of the hospital. This entry appears to be for ambulances and emergency vehicles. Private vehicles with sick passengers are not permitted emergency access this way.

The telephone book indicates RNSH address as Pacific Hwy
St. Leonards

Something needs to be done to correct this anomaly!!

TIME MAY BE CRITICAL IN AN EMERGENCY

QUESTIONS

1. Who is responsible for the signs directing the public to the hospital - RTA or Hospital?
2. Why are people directed to an entrance that is not accessible to the public?
3. Why is the entry via Reserve Rd. not open as it is a very direct access route from the Gore Hill Freeway?
4. Why are there no hospital signs directing the public to the Pacific Highway from the Lane Cove Tunnel or Epping Highway?
5. Why are there no red "emergency" signs on route to the hospital on the Gore Hill Freeway?
6. Why if you follow the "blue cross" hospital signs do you end up at an entry that cannot quickly access the Emergency Department?