

**INQUIRY INTO OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF  
THE NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 25 June 2019

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Portfolio Committee No.2, Health

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some feedback of my experience with the Northern Beaches Hospital Management.

I have lived on the Northern Beaches my entire life, and have worked at both Manly and Mona Vale Hospitals during my medical training. When the new NB Hospital circulated an EOI for credentialing of medical staff, I applied.

My application was based upon my qualifications and experience. I expressed an interest in providing public only, ambulatory outpatient care in my areas of expertise. My application was supported by my CV and I nominated a number of referees.

I received a short letter of response from the NBH Management stating that my application for credentialing had been declined. I asked Ms Latta for the reason for this, and was sent a further abrupt letter stating that the hospital management was under no obligation to provide that information. I became quite concerned, and made an application for the information under the GIPA Freedom of Information Act. The email response was again quite rude, stating that a private entity was under no obligation to respond to GIPA requests.

This interaction was concerning for me on several levels:

My understanding is that the hospital is a Private Public Partnership, and is obligated to provide public services to patients on the Northern Beaches. I'm aware that the lack of public healthcare at NBH has been raised by patients and doctors. As a doctor who steadfastly believes in free healthcare for lower income earners and disadvantaged populations, I was surprised by the response to my application.

My request for information under the GIPA Act should have been honoured.

The communication style of Ms Latta and her team was unbelievably unprofessional, and it was no wonder to me at that time that things were as dire as they were (and still are in some respects).

I would have been happy to accept the decline in accreditation if it had been made with some reasonable explanation as to why. It remains a somewhat concerning mystery to me, but to be honest, I no longer have any interest in working there.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter, and for your interest. I understand the Inquiry is not set up to respond to individual issues, but I hope my response provides some useful information for your team.