

Submission
No 37

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 7 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

The Director.
Portfolio Committee No 2-Health
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney
NSW

Re: Inquiry into operations & management of Northern Beaches Hospital

I am writing to raise my concerns regarding Northern Beaches Hospital and the upcoming Inquiry.

My partner and I have been residents of Newport for many years. My partner has had several operations (heart/knees). We have had occasion to go to Mona Vale emergency on 4 occasions in relation to his heart. As he is ageing I feel concerned that my easy access to emergency has disappeared. The last time we needed an ambulance (for a neighbour-2 months ago) the ambulance could not find the entrance to our laneway and I had to go down to the main street with a torch. It would have been far easier for us to take the neighbour to emergency at Mona Vale, than wait for an ambulance. This is an example of the dilemma of an emergency some way away.

The ongoing problems with the new hospital are worrying. When doctors and nurses are voicing their opinions publicly there is something drastically wrong. Doctors resigning! Unheard of.

To have a road like Wakehurst Parkway as a major road to the hospital is a joke, particular when it's at risk of being closed due to flooding. I don't see much progress on this road, as yet. However the hospital has been opened 8 months ago. It's a bit like putting the cart before the horse.

Someone needs to take responsibility for these glaring problems. Having smaller acute care hospitals made sense. It worked so well, with people going there initially, then moved on, if they needed to be, just as it happened to my partner. He got immediate care to stabilise him, before being moved on two occasions to Royal North Shore.

When surgeons are concerned for the welfare of their patients it is worrying. With privatisation of organisations we constantly see compromise for profit happening once again.

This hospital seems overloaded and now servicing a wider area. With Mona Vale downgraded and Manly (closed) they seemed have compounded the problem.

I hope some sensible outcomes can be achieved by this Inquiry. Mona Vale Hospital has the space to operate as it was, making all those residents on the Peninsular far more secure and confident.

Yours Sincerely