

**Submission  
No 27**

**INQUIRY INTO REGULATION OF BUILDING  
STANDARDS, BUILDING QUALITY AND BUILDING  
DISPUTES**

**Name:** Mr Andrew Martin

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## Submission of Andrew Martin

My background is that I emigrated to Australia from UK in 2012 having married Carolyn; an Australian lady. I am an Australian citizen. I am a Law Graduate and was employed by Boots UK Property as National Rating and Service Charge Manager prior to leaving after 30+ years employment in November 2012. I also represented BRC [British Retail Consortium] on certain property matters during my career. Further I lectured on property issues and spoke at conferences both in UK and Europe. I am now retired.

I was extremely upset to see the Grenfell Tower tragedy unfold on TV and have been active in seeking answers to questions in respect of NSW buildings [in particular public ones e.g. hospitals] in relation to cladding. As I live in North Gosford my specific focus was on North Gosford Private Hospital and Gosford Public Hospital. I have undergone medical treatment at both these hospitals.

At the kernel of my submission is **transparency** . I wrote to the respective bodies responsible, i.e. Central Coast Council in relation to North Gosford Private Hospital and NSW Health Infrastructure and Planning Department in relation to the newly redeveloped Gosford Public Hospital.

I attach key elements of my correspondence.

The first file contains communications with Central Coast Council. The second file contains communications with NSW Government Health Infrastructure and Planning.

I asked very specific questions.

Central Coast Council through their Fire Safety Officer; Mark Newton was transparent. He named the product type of material forming the cladding at Gosford Private Hospital. As it was combustible he also gave me a statement as to when it was to be wholly replaced. That cladding has now been removed and replaced as stated.

This openness in answering specific questions with specific answers did not occur in my communications with NSW Health Infrastructure and Planning. I still do not know what materials Gosford Public Hospital is clad in.

Hence the public who own, pay for, work , visit and sleep in [when there as a patient] are completely unaware of what the building, their building is made of.

Why the avoidance of answering this simple but important question in respect of cladding?

I believe that openness and transparency in this and all building matters is vital.

It is insufficient to say that e.g. 'the material complies with Australian Standards' without naming the specific product.

I tender my submission to you in the hope that the **transparency** shown by Central Coast Council's Fire Safety Officer Mark Newton is replicated by the NSW Government in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Andrew Martin LL.B.