

Submission
No 52

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 19 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

Submission

I am a resident of the Northern Beaches and my family and I have used the Mona Vale Hospital over the past 35 years for maternity, broken bones, sutures, appendectomy, fractured hips, and used the emergency many times, as well as rehabilitation/hospice for a dying relative. Also swimming lessons, prenatal maternity hydrotherapy and general hydrotherapy.

I horrified to read Brad Hazzard's comments in the Manly Daily, quoted on 20/10/2018 that the Mona Vale Hospital decision to close was decided upon 14 years ago. The population growth has increased dramatically since those years so it was unbelievable why this decision was made considering the State Government's plan to put medium/high density housing in the area. There should be a Hospital in Frenchs Forest and at Mona Vale.

There is no direct public transport to the hospital from the north (Palm Beach - Narrabeen) and no direct route by public transport up the Wakehurst Parkway. One living in the northern end of the Council area have to travel to Dee Why to get a bus up to the hospital. Traffic to Dee Why is horrendous at any time of the day.

Please reinstate the Mona Vale Hospital to service a huge area from Dee Why through to Palm Beach and inland. Obviously the Northern Beaches Private Hospital module is not working as is reported in the Manly Daily other print media and television.

Unfortunately there are less beds for public patients at the new hospital, than there was at MV and Manly Hospitals combined. And apparently public patients are given a continental breakfast as opposed to full breakfast for a private patient. How appalling! A friend who attended the NBPH for the birth of her son reported there were no pads/nappies for her newborn and was told to leave asap after the birth of her child. Sh refused as she want d to stay 48 hours after a long labour.

Mona Vale Hospital was only 50 years old - just gut the inside of the building and modify it. \$100 million was saved by not extending the B-Line bus to Newport (as a result of 2000 petitioners) but 22,000 signed the petition for MV Hospital to stay open). Rob Stokes claimed that it didn't meet the 2018 fire standards and hence it needed to be bulldozed, contrary to building reports from engineers. The NSW Government has money to rebuild 20-year-old stadiums. They also have money to up Hornsby Hospital, the RPA and St Vincent Hospitals but nothing for our much loved and needed Mona Vale Hospital.

We know that there is a massive population growth projected for the Northern Beaches, especially for Dee Why, Manly Vale, Warriewood, Elanora and Ingleside but there will be no hospital on the coastal strip.

In Country NSW, Bathurst and Orange both have level 3 hospitals. Their catchment is much the same size as Pittwater but we will only have one hospital at Frenchs Forest which could take more than 22 minutes to reach from suburbs north of Narrabeen but even longer in peak hour sometimes up to 1 1/2 hours.

From October 2018 those living in Palm Beach and needing urgent medical attention will have to travel to the closest hospital at Frenchs Forest, which, is the equivalent for a person living in Bondi, Rydalmere or Strathfield travelling also to Frenchs Forrest. Even country people have better access to a Hospital.

There will be no additional Ambulances located on the Northern Beaches, even though it will take them double the time to transport patients up to the new hospital. Is that really an improvement in the urgent medical situation over what we have now?

The Wakehurst Parkway still floods and there is always the potential for disruption due to heavy rain, bushfires or motor vehicle accidents on this narrow one lane each way secondary road. Admittedly the government is trying to bandaid the Parkway with minor changes at the top of the Parkway. The NSW Government and our local MPs have not made any forward planning or commitment to an upgrade of the Wakehurst Parkway section between North Narrabeen and Frenchs Forest. Nothing!

There is no direct public transport to the new hospital from suburbs north of Dee Why. There appears to be an assumption by NSW Government authorities that everybody is well off on the Northern Beaches and owns a car. Those who do not and need to attend or visit a patient at Frenchs Forest will have to catch a bus to Dee Why and then change buses, a very time consuming exercise.

We need to retain our precious Hospital otherwise lives will be lost on a slow journey up the Wakehurst Parkway to Frenchs Forest.

I have emailed my local member and members of parliament many times regarding the closure of Mona Vale Hospital.

Regards