

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 21 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

Despite many warnings from local GPs that was well documented in our local paper saying they feared their patient's lives would be put at risk by closing Mona Vale Hospital's full Accident and Emergency and acute services due to increasing the travel distance for many in Pittwater , despite a huge number of signatures on 2 significant petitions , despite the promise of government to keep Mona Vale hospital acute services open , the NSW government chose to downgrade our much needed community hospital.

What sort of political madness decides to take away Accident and Emergency in a growing population area , where tourists flock , where there are numerous road accidents and water sports related injuries and schools and sports fields that are full of weekend sports Injuries and cyclists injuries before you even account for everyday urgent needs ?

Last November I had a minor injury and instead of being transported by ambulance to Mona Vale for a simple xray and clean up of wound , I was transported to French's Forest . The ambulance could have easily taken me to Mona Vale , they said so, it was not life threatening injury but required a clean up and bandage but they were not allowed . What a waste of resources and utilisation of ambulance time to take me 20 minutes further from Mon Vale...fortunately the Wakehurst parkway was not flooded which would have made the trip much longer.

Does the NBH have a monopoly that an ambulance can't take me to Mona Vale ?
I don't know but there will be many people like me who get taken to NBH instead of the Urgent Care centre that could also do the job .

If I had had a serious condition how much is the Government jeopardising my life by making me travel a further 20 mins of treatment . To me this is unconscionable .

I haven't been to NBH since November but I recall no one seemed to know how the place ran , why wasn't there an adequate soft opening instead of gung-ho closing 2 major hospitals at once. Were there conditions in the contract that made this all happen at once that lead to so many early failings of service deliveries that I read about in the paper ?

There is not one day where I don't drive past Mona Vale Hospital and do not feel utterly appalled by this state government and more particularly the health minister and bureaucrats who made this decision against public wishes to down grade our much needed local hospital. When I had young kids with illnesses that hospital was a lifeline ..it also was a integral part of what being a community is . A proper community hospital is the mark of a healthy society . I feel we have been totally let down as a community by the down grading of Mona Vale Hospital services .

If I lived off shore or past Newport I would be very concerned that my health needs have been severely compromised by the down grading of Mona Vale Hospital due to the extra travel distance.

As for the NBH it lacks a number of public clinics that I will still have to go to the good old reliable RNSH .There is no eye clinic or many other outpatient clinics yet this hospital was meant to be a state of the art , you beaut public hospital.

As for visiting sick friends, community could always park for free at Mona Vale Hospital, now it is \$7 to \$16 to visit a sick person . A visit is a diversion for the patient, part of the healing or grieving. The hospital isn't in a major business area , it's in the boondocks of the Northern Beaches yet we have to pay to park to attend A&E or visit the sick ..what's that about ? Greed !

I am also disgusted that Healthscope has sold its business to Brookfield that I read recently is a Canadian company registered in the Cayman Islands .

Our public hospitals should be public , not for profit and we certainly should not be filling the pockets of businesses getting fat on Australian tax payers backs ..what do you think ?