

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 22 July 2019

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Partially  
Confidential



My partner requested that I take him to the emergency department as he was in crisis and experiencing suicidal ideology. We arrived at NBH around 8pm and were triaged fairly quickly we were sent to a secure room where we waited till 1am my partner was very agitated during this time, it was explained to us by the ED mental health nurse that they were understaffed and they just did not have the capacity. Once my partner was seen to and admitted we were left with the option of waiting for a possible bed until the morning or going to Gosford. We opted to wait, my partner was taken to the ward at 12 noon the next day. For the next 2 days I visited as much as possible while juggling 2 kids and living in Avalon and each visit he explained that no one had come to see him. He was seen by the Psychologist on day three and asked if he felt he was ok to go home as they were coming up to a four day long weekend and no one would be able to check on him anyway. He was discharged with phone follow up one week later. Needless to say the pressure this put on our family was tremendous. I felt abandoned and completely at a loss of where to turn for help.

I took my four year old daughter to an ear nose and throat specialist in Frenches forest as I had concerns about her breathing at night and her extremely enlarged tonsils. The specialist was very firm in stating that if I ever felt the need to take her to ED to go straight to westmede children's not to NBH when I asked why she said at least not at this age, it's just too risky! Obviously coming from a specialist this for me holds weight and I would follow her recommendations.