

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I have worked as a General Practitioner in Dee Why since 2012. During this time I have had no concerns about the quality of services offered by the local hospitals - Manly and Mona Vale Hospitals, both of which served the needs of my patients well. However in recent months I have had multiple experiences of patients presenting to me having experienced poor quality care at the Northern Beaches Hospital. While a number of patients have experienced issues which relate to inadequate staffing (including my wife who is also a local GP and was an surgical inpatient at the NBH) my chief concern is related to the poor quality radiology and pathology services at NBH. I have had several patient episodes where patients have received inaccurate results of CT and ultrasound scans, including a patient who was informed that she had cancer which had spread to her liver. However subsequent investigations revealed an inaccurate diagnosis.

While this can happen on occasion, as no investigation is perfect, I have seen several patients over a short period of time with worrying levels of inaccuracy in their radiology reports, potentially leading to adverse outcomes. I know several of my colleagues have also reported similar experiences.

In addition, I have seen copies of histopathology reports of surgically removed skin cancers which are inaccurate eg. "specimen shows a superficial basal cell carcinoma which invades into the dermis.." By definition a superficial basal cell carcinoma does not invade the dermis. The situation has now been reached by myself and several of my colleagues where we advise patients to go to Royal North Shore Hospital if they are unwell, as I have no confidence in the level of care provided at NBH.