

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

**Name:** Mr Jeffrey Quinn

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That Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health inquire into and report on the operation and management of the Northern Beaches Hospital, and in particular: (f) the impact of the hospital on surrounding communities and health facilities, particularly Mona Vale Hospital, Manly Hospital and Royal North Shore Hospital. I write this simplistic, without prejudice, personal submission to implore the members of Portfolio Committee No. 2 to fully investigate the circumstances surrounding the closure and impending demolition of Mona Vale Public Hospital.

The closure and impending demolition are currently and will continue to profoundly impact the health security of Narrabeen/Pittwater and Warringah communities of the Northern Beaches and visitors to the area. I base my submission on my heritage as a lifelong inhabitant of the Northern Beaches and being the fourth generation of my family to have lived here.

I have a deep connection to the area with many firsthand and anecdotal experiences of Mona Vale Hospital including the birth of my only daughter in 1997. I am a member of the Narrabeen/Pittwater Branch of the Australian Labor Party, an ALP representative on the Save Mona Vale Hospital Community Action Group Incorporated and most of all a concerned local citizen who disagrees with the current situation. I concur with the scope and substance of the submission to the Portfolio Committee No 2 made by the Save Mona Vale Hospital Community Action Group Incorporated. For the last 22 years I have owned and operated a local business, before that I was:

- a primary school teacher who worked in local Northern Beaches Government Schools and the Sydney Japanese School at Terrey Hills;
- a student of Narrabeen High School, Narrabeen Boys High School, Narrabeen North Primary /School, St Joseph's Catholic School Narrabeen
- born in 1959 at a hospital in Cremorne (because Mona Vale Hospital was not built then), living north of Narrabeen all of my life (except when studying at a college in Lismore and a year in travelling Europe).
- The oldest son of Marjorie May Cohen who was born in Collaroy, (sister Hammond's Private Hospital) in 1934 and lived in Lagoon Street Narrabeen and Lisle Street Narrabeen until moving to Budgewoi in 1987.
- Grandson of Sydney Walter Cohen born in 1907 who lived in Narrabeen from circa 1914.
- Great Grandson of Percival Walter Barron Franks Cohen and Harriet Annie Radford Cohen who lived in Dee Why and Narrabeen from the 1890s.
- Grandson of Phyllis Gertrude Cohen nee Callaghan of Middle Harbour who lived in Narrabeen from circa 1920. My family oral history goes back to an era when this area was a remote place with very few of the luxuries we have now. A time when a tick, spider or snake bite, an accident or a complication giving birth often did not have a good outcome because it would mean a dangerously long journey to Manly or further afield for treatment. The consensus of my family's stories of their early years in Narrabeen was that many people died "young" and often on the road to Manly. This situation changed during the 20th Century, as is widely known, with better transport, medicines and improved equipment and medical procedures, though nonetheless, the risks were high that a preventable death, if treatment was readily at hand, was too often not prevented. The greatest change to avert the parlous situation of living on the Northern Beaches north of and in Narrabeen occurred in 1964/5 when Mona Vale Public Hospital opened. A growing population then had an emergency (known as "Casualty" when I was a child) ward and a well equipped, adequately funded state of the art public hospital. With the turn of the century, the population has continued to grow. The 21st Century needs of the population have not changed and in many ways have become more demanding. Accidents still occur. Babies born, people of all ages have strokes, heart attacks, operations are required, children under the age of 12 need treatment ad infinitum while the tyranny of distance is still a real factor in the delivery in time of the treatment required to save a limb, an eye, a life. There is still the need for a fully-funded public hospital in Mona Vale in the existing building. That the

Mona Vale Public Hospital's condition was allowed to deteriorate by successive governments is a travesty and against the public interest. It is a building that needs refurbishing but it has been shown to be structurally sound. It must not be demolished. It belongs to the public. It is a valuable public asset. The land it is on is public land and must not be used for private purposes. Demolishing this building is against the common good and those initiating it are acting against the public's interest. Considering the plans that the current government has for the site, the loss of the current building will mean that the people of Narrabeen/Pittwater may never have a public health facility in the area again. Believing that the privately run Northern Beaches hospital which is as far away from Narrabeen as Manly along a road that is often impassable due to flooding will adequately service the people of the beaches is erroneous. It is a retrograde step to pre-1964 days regardless of Mr Robert Stokes oft-quoted "clinicians" opinions. Without regard to the history and geography of the Narrabeen/ Pittwater area, seemingly anti-public good decisions have made manifest the situation where the tyranny of distance once again puts people's lives at risk. This risk is not worth taking and is avoidable. Renovating and refurbishing Mona Vale Public Hospital is a positive action that has proven for the last 50 plus years to be a more than adequate solution. I ask the members of Portfolio Committee No 2 to copy and paste the links below to carefully and attentively watch the videos thereon. You may have the same videos listed in other submissions. I am sure you will find them edifying. Again, I ask you to fully investigate the circumstances surrounding the closure and impending demolition of Mona Vale Public Hospital. Moreover, I ask that the committee stop any further works at the Mona Vale Public Hospital site with the aim of refurbishing, renovating and reopening the public hospital. I also ask for the opportunity to make further submissions after the due date.

With best regards

Jeffrey Quinn

PLAYLIST for SAVE MONA VALE HOSPITAL

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLor69SMXRxFcak\\_e45sms-GzQHPDpRGF](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLor69SMXRxFcak_e45sms-GzQHPDpRGF)

PLAYLIST FOR BRAD HAZZARD INTERVIEW

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLor69SMXRxFcsaTPJdsksGF0drbcQh1u->

MONA VALE & NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITALS CRISIS - PROF. RICHARD

WEST <https://youtu.be/Iss6FqIFsWc> Public protest meeting re-closure of Mona Vale Public

Hospital & problems with the new Northern Beaches hospital including its foreign takeover.

Professor Richard West delivers an unprecedented level of information vital to your well-being, Rob Stokes an apologia for his lack thereof.

WHEN IS MONA VALE HOSPITAL NO LONGER A

HOSPITAL? <https://youtu.be/zmT6ZLVQT24>