

**Submission  
No 156**

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

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## **SUBMISISON TO NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL ENQUIRY**

Where do you start? The debacle that is Northern Beaches Hospital dollar driven privatised management? The farce of closing Mona Vale Hospital? The mistruths of Brad Hazzard (HapHazzard) or the lies spouted by Rob Stokes?

Whatever, Mona Vale Hospital **MUST** be retained - Emergency Department, Maternity, Surgical, Mental Health - and upgraded. Northern Beaches Hospital needs better access, all beds to be made public and come under State Government administration.

Unless Mona Vale Hospital it is reopened **PEOPLE WILL DIE**. Blood on the hands of our elected members.

### **Northern Beaches Hospital**

1. Excessive distance and travel time and road conditions to reach NBH from the northern end of the Peninsula - ie Collaroy to Palm Beach
2. The reduced number of public beds' compared to what we used to have; and the expanding population of the Northern Beaches.

I have been a patient at the new NBH. It was only for day procedure.. and all went well. As it should. But, I had to be a private patient (unlike the last 4 times I've been to Mona Vale where I was a public patient or offered the option of no gap private.)

(And I should point out here that no blame should be attributed to any of the staff at the new hospital. They are trying to do a difficult job in adifficult culture, without the support and resources they need. Whoever deemed the hospital open when it did, with barely a whiff of staff training, lack of medications and processes and procedures in place deserves to be shot.)

On the day of my procedure, it took 35 minutes to get from my place to the new hospital; ie from North Narrabeen along Wakehurst Parkway to Frenchs Forest. I would have hated to be really sick. Or have been sent there by the new "Medical Centre" at Mona Vale because they couldn't deal with the problem.

Regardless, the biggest issue has to be the distance from the northern end of the peninsula. The NBH is simply not accessible, even our rural and regional cousins have better access to hospitals.

## **SUBMISISON TO NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL ENQUIRY**

Imagine living in Palm Beach, Newport or Avalon; and having a heart attack or stroke. Imagine then if it is a rainy day, and the Parkway is flooded and therefore closed. The trip that would have taken 45 minutes now takes 1 hour 25 minutes. What are your chances? Not great I'd say. Imagine the poor ambos who have to keep you alive. And everyone knows that quick, immediate treatment is key for surviving this type of condition. Would you want this for your child? Your parents? Your partner?

What sort of Government allows a hospital to open, yet has no transport and no decent roads to get there? Even now, 8 months post opening, the intersection of Warringah Rd and Wakehurst Parkway resembles a bomb site.

We need the hospitals to have public beds, more than what the Manly and Mona Vale Hospitals had combined. NOT LESS as is currently the case with NBH. We also need the State Government to make NBH 100% public.

### **Mona Vale Hospital**

We have an aging and growing population on the Northern Beaches. An additional 10,000 people have moved into the Warriewood Valley – in line with NSW government planning policy at the time. Further development is proposed for Ingleside and Terrey Hills. It stands to reason that we need to keep a hospital.

Proximity to the 60,000+ people residing in the Northern end of the NB peninsula is essential.

I have personally been to Mona Vale Hospital on 4 occasions one of those times requiring urgent admission through ED due to chest pain. Each and every time I was treated with caring, compassion and professionalism.

My partner was treated there after a surfing accident where he compressed 3 discs in his neck. How wonderful and reassuring it was to be able to get him so quickly to the help that he urgently needed.

Mona Vale Hospital MUST be retained and upgraded - Emergency Department, Maternity, Surgical, Mental Health. 10 beds in the new palliative care is not enough.

If it is not maintained, the site will be lost forever. A site which was dedicated and planned for a PUBLIC hospital.

## **SUBMISISON TO NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL ENQUIRY**

Our politicians = elected members **Rob Stokes, Brad Hazzard, Jason Falinski**

Where is the accountability? Rob Stokes, Brad Hazzard and the NSW Government have let the people of the Northern Beaches down dreadfully.

Rob Stokes, in 2007, promised that Mona Vale Hospital was here to stay. How untrue that statement was.

During a protest I attended in 2018, Brad Hazzard, outside his very own office, on his own time and at his own intervention stated that Mona Vale Hospital would not be demolished. Again, no evidence to support that statement....

Jason Falinski, the Federal Member for Mackellar, has blocked anyone who dares to point out a few salient facts on his Facebook page. So much for democracy.

I hope this enquiry brings back our faith in a fair, just and democratic open transparent process.