

**Submission  
No 146**

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

**Name:** Mr David Bartolo

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To the Committee,

I live with my family and my father at Whale Beach, previously served well by Mona Vale Hospital.

One of the reasons we moved into this area 5 years ago, was that although a fair distance from the city, it was serviced by a hospital that could be accessed quickly. As the suburbs on the Northern Beaches, especially those past Mona Vale, are accessible only by a single road, it was very important to me and my family that we knew that in the event of an emergency we could always get access to care.

The new Northern Beaches hospital has removed that possibility.

When I recently found myself needing to attend the hospital for unexplained chest pains, I went straight to Mona Vale, where I was assessed by very experienced doctors. They were, however, unable to perform the tests they wanted to because although the experienced staff has remained at the Urgent Care Centre at Mona Vale, (apparently due to Northern Beaches Hospital not wanting to pay the more senior staff), the equipment is not available, and I needed to then go to the Northern Beaches hospital for assessment.

Luckily, as this was after 10pm, the traffic was not too bad.

I do however, commute down the Wakehurst Parkway daily to work at St Leonards, and am very sad when I see an ambulance from the Northern Beaches trying to get through the atrocious traffic that is gridlocked along the Parkway. I know the chances of anyone with a life threatening emergency getting to hospital on time during peak hour are very unlikely, unless they are airlifted.

My father, who is 99 years old, also lives with us. The fact that there was a nearby hospital was instrumental in his decision to sell his house and move in with his family.

He made use of Mona Vale hospital before it closed during a minor stroke episode, and the outcome would likely not have been as positive if he had needed

to go all the way to Northern Beaches hospital, as this episode was during the morning traffic period. Two of his friends also made regular use of Mona Vale hospital, as they are in the Bayview retirement village, and in their 90's.

We are extremely disappointed and angry that a rapidly growing area such as this has had its facilities reduced rather than increased, and despite the Government being very clearly lobbied by the local community they have decided to ignore their constituents.

Yours Sincerely

David Bartolo

Whale Beach

July, 2019