

**Submission
No 149**

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

Name: Mr David Murray

Date Received: 28 July 2019

These are the letters that I have sent to the Manly Daily which encapsulates my view of what has happened to Mona Vale hospital. Most of these letters were published by the paper.

Sun 27/08/2017 3:39 AM

Brad Hazzard says that we have had to put up with 'unacceptable' facilities at Mona Vale Hospital (MD 26 Aug). I totally disagree.

For over 50 years my family, my friends and my neighbours have been born there, mended there and passed away there. MVH has provided a local and outstanding public service (with a great healing environment and coastal views to boot). The proposed downgrading of our hospital is a travesty.

The truth is our health service is being privatised for corporate profit. Just like so many of our other cherished community institutions.

Sat 30/06/2018 11:42 PM

Future residents will look back at the decision to shut down Mona Vale hospital as a monumental stuff up (First look at future face of hospital MD 30 June). Our health services are being privatised for corporate profit and the continuation of essential medical facilities at Mona Vale does not fit with the new hospital owner's business model.

If the public-private partnership model adopted for the NB Hospital is such a good idea, then why has it been subsequently abandoned by the State Government for planned hospital developments at Wyong, Goulburn, Shellharbour, Bowral and Maitland?

Thu 20/09/2018 9:49 PM

The new NB hospital building is a privately operated facility whose owners primary obligation will be ensuring a dividend for their shareholders. I can see no logical reason to close Mona Vale Hospital's maternity as it was only refurbished 5 or 6 years ago. Rather I suspect competing against a local, easily accessible and well regarded maternity facility at the northern end of the peninsula was not part of Healthscope's business plan.

Fri 12/10/2018 11:33 AM

Mona Vale Hospital's emergency department services a population comparative in size to Albury Wodonga or Wagga Wagga and has a similar number of annual presentations. So just imagine replacing the EDs at Albury or Wagga hospitals with a medical centre and expecting the townsfolk to instead travel 20 to 40 minutes out of town via roads subject to flooding or traffic congestion. Unimaginable. But this is exactly what is happening in two weeks to the people of Pittwater. And our population is planned to increase at Warriewood and Ingleside as well. The people of Pittwater are being hung out to dry.

Wed 31/10/2018 10:35 AM

It's only early days yet at the new hospital. Healthscope has invested an enormous amount of money and will be looking at maximising the profits for its shareholders (as any company should do). Manly hospital may have been 'well loved' but I suspect a privately operated hospital that is subject to all of the vagaries of market forces will not be so well regarded by patients or staff.

Remember, we on the Northern Beaches are alone in NSW in this experiment of health privatisation. One thing is for sure. It just wouldn't have happened if we lived in marginal electorates.

Mon 17/12/2018 10:08 PM

Regarding the State Government's minor backdown on emergency services at Mona Vale. Can you honestly believe that they have had to restore anti-venom for snakes and spiders to a 'hospital' in the bushiest part of Sydney? Just illustrates to me the incompetence of those responsible for the contract arrangements with Healthscope.

Sun 17/02/2019 8:12 PM

Rob Stokes has said that there is nothing in Healthscope's contract that would prevent the re-establishment of essential medical facilities at Mona Vale Hospital. With an increasing population, it is inevitable that health services at Mona Vale will need to be restored. What Stokes hasn't said is whether those revamped services would be public or privately run. My guess would be the latter with very long leases granted.

Sun 30/06/2019 10:10 PM

I am appalled at the impending demolition of Mona Vale Hospital's main building (MD 29 June). This will be a complete sell out of our health care to private interests. Asbestos in the structure is not a reason to pull it down, otherwise a good number of our older school buildings would have to go as well. Maternity on Level 4 was revamped only a few years ago and there is no reason why the rest of the main building could not be saved.

As for Rob Stokes claim that the land "will stay in public hands". Mark my words, it will be a 99 year lease. As I said, completely appalled.

Regards

David Murray