

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

Name: Ms Emily Ashton

Date Received: 28 July 2019

Mona Vale Hospital is an existing hospital on public land positioned in reasonable proximity to the people of the Northern Beaches. It is a safe liberal seat.

Saving Mona Vale hospital is essential for the GROWING not declining, Northern Beaches community in particular the elderly and those who are reliant on public transportation. It's zoned for public use and should be providing services for emergencies both in the skill level of the doctors AND the equipment available to support and complement their work.

Time is critical for all ages: head trauma, strokes, births. Do you really need to wait for a powerful person to be compromised irrevocably due to removing real services from a central, existing hospital?

This is not just a place where a community lives, it is a place where people celebrate and holiday and inevitably affects the wider community.

I personally know how it feels to have a baby on my street a long way from the the medical attention needed in an ambulance. This situation was preventable due to prior knowledge of a congenital heart disease.

I accept that stuff happens, but having a child die or be special needs when it is preventable because necessary skills, equipment AND proximity were not addressed is failing the community and electorate.

The question is, if it is not serving the electorate's interests, whose interests is it serving?

It was through luck rather than professionalism/competency that meant I don't now have a special needs or deceased child.

At the moment it feels like the government is making a whole community rely on luck- particularly the people who are really north on the Northern Beaches like Avalon, Whale Beach and Palm Beach.

To NOT rely on luck would be to have a hospital central to the area: proximity, skills and the equipment to support these medical skills. Ambulance availability is also key with a road that can't flood or be jammed.

In the meantime come and live, holiday and celebrate in the Northern Beaches- I just hope you are feeling lucky.