

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 28 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

I would like to know the full reasons and rationale behind the closure of the two public hospitals and the opening of the mega private/public hospital.

We were told that Mona Vale Hospital had asbestos in it and was run down. As it was the governments responsibility to keep it safe and operational it seems very strange that this just came to light. The auxiliary appeared to fund the new requirements of maternity etc. Such a shameful use of volunteers to raise funds and use those funds then discard the improvements. I question the timeline on decisions to close Mona Vale Hospital. I would like to know why the area north of Narrabeen rates so poorly for health services. No ambulances are permanently located in the area. No emergency services available. The Ambulances at Narrabeen will I understand be transferred to Mona Vale. Not extra services. What happens to the Ambulance Station at Narrabeen. Prime land?.

Despite a lot of promises there has been no successful upgrade of the Wakehurst Parkway. This single lane road is the quickest route to the new hospital. It is not always open . It can be closed in adverse weather, wind, rain . It can be slow just due to heavy traffic. The ambulances at times don't use it due to roadworks they go the long way around.

I would like to see the financials behind the sale to the private sector be made public. I would question whether a private organisation will run a hospital in a way that benefits the public interest. I see that there is an inherent conflict of interest, in the form of shareholders requiring a profit and return on investment.

I ask why both hospitals closed on the same day and there was no staged transition.(keep one open a few days).

I also question why an overseas fund now owns the hospital and benefits from our government health dollars medicare and our private health fund contributions. All going overseas.