

Supplementary
Submission
No 40c

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

Hello, as before, please omit name, email address, and any identifying factors. Thankyou. I just read in the Manly Daily that the opportunity for giving submissions will close soon so my thoughts were- do I have anything to add?

Tomorrow there is an annual reunion of Mona Vale nursing staff at the golf club. I have just heard that the numbers are so great that we have to be accommodated in the function room. Many of us are determined to get there as we have heard that this will be our last reunion during which we can gaze over the golf course and look at Mona Vale Hospital tower, working home for all of us for such a beautiful part of our lives. How very sad. Governments, councils, politicians, you don't realise what you are doing by taking our public hospital from the community. We do not buy all this rubbish about 'this will be retained, that will be built' etc. Our hospital is disappearing by stealth. The remaining bits will be privately serviced. The 'urgent care centre'? Just a panacea to keep the gullible public happy for a while. I couldn't even find its telephone number for a friend who needed a bit of support with asthma the other night. It's disgusting how this valuable part of our close community has been allowed to be eroded- and replaced with that private aberration NBH that is too far away to be useful to many. I have heard, on good authority, that Admin staff have been instructed to ask each patient if they have private health insurance and even when they have said "yes, but this is Medicare, isn't it?" They have found the next day that the paperwork has been altered to 'private' and their health fund has been charged. This has happened OVERNIGHT and definitely warrants an investigation. The reason I am reporting as a 3rd party is that one of the patients in question is the son of one of the admin staff and she's too scared to speak up. As I still have contact with many of the staff, I can also tell you that many of them are reluctant to speak out. As an obstetrician told me the other day "it's too risky, a lot of us have a twenty year career ahead". Finally, Brad Hazzard, still 'banging on' about how the enquiry will 'upset the hardworking staff'. What utter rubbish (I substituted the word I wanted to use). The staff have kept his job for him. If they hadn't all been working double and triple shifts when NBH opened, going above and beyond the call of duty, and overcoming staff shortages (thank God for Agency casuals too) lack of equipment, lack of stationery, lack of guidance, policies and procedures, computer issues on an hourly basis and, by the way, grief and stress caused by the non-supportive run-up to the move he would have been OUT. Brad Hazzard needs to stop hiding behind those hardworking midwives, nurses and doctors and be authentic, not come out with well-rehearsed platitudes from his latest spin doctor. All those publicity photos and news items about the Grand opening, look back at them, all in their Sunday best clothes, huge self-congratulatory smiles "On time and on budget", crowed Deb Latta- while disasters were a ticking time bomb-and the rats left, one by one, the sinking ship. Kind regards (-omit)

Sent from my iPhone