

**Submission
No 206**

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

Name: Mr Barry Shepherdson

Date Received: 27 July 2019

I have lived in the Newport/Avalon area since 1952. As such I have seen many changes, the most important of which was the construction of the Mona Vale Hospital. Prior to this the closest public hospital was at Manly. The new hospital gave us a sense of security.

At Mona Vale Hospital my wife gave birth to our son; my mother underwent a number of operations there and twice I was treated in the Emergency Section. On one of these occasions I had a fall which resulted in a laceration to the back of my head which required stapling. The 5 hour treatment I received was very thorough. It included a brain scan, a blood circulation test, an x-ray, a tetanus injection and many blood pressure and sugar level tests. A physiotherapist attended me as well as a social worker who advised me on installations in the house designed to reduce the possibility of accidents occurring.

Over the years the population of our suburbs has increased greatly and will continue to increase with Ingleside coming on stream and the construction of many more 3 level apartments. Now we have one hospital which it would seem is receiving a significant number of patients from unexpected areas. How long will it be before the new hospital struggles and the realisation that the decision to virtually close down Mona Vale was a mistake?

I just hope that the next time I need emergency medical assistance, the traffic and weather conditions are such that I will arrive at the Northern Beaches Hospital in time!