

Submission
No 218

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 28 July 2019

Partially
Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam

I'm writing to add my voice to the cacophony of voices - people who are crying out to keep emergency and hospital health services on the northern beaches, specifically at Mona Vale.

I know of at least two people who would have died if Mona Vale Hospital had not existed (prior to its closure). They would not have made it as far as the new hospital. One was bleeding out after childbirth and another had had a heart attack. Both were in critical condition and were saved at Mona Vale. Critical care at this end of the peninsula is vital.

This week, I had reason to turn up at Mona Vale urgent care late at night. My teenage daughter was having her first experience of asthma. She was treated at Mona Vale but the doctor still felt it best to have her monitored at Northern Beaches. We then had to drive there - past numerous roadworks - and go through the entire process again at the new hospital. As her attack was mild, I couldn't see the sense in this. Why did we have to go through this process when surely asthma is something that could be dealt with at Mona Vale? I'm not criticising the staff in any way - it's the bureaucracy that they have to work within. My point is, if they can't manage a mild asthma incident at Mona Vale, what can they manage?

I have lived in Newport for more than twenty years and over that time the population and traffic have increased dramatically. Why are we closing down services when there are more people living here?

It's not an over-statement to say that residents are absolutely desperate about this situation. There is a genuine fear in the community that critical care services will not be available when we need them. The new hospital is too far away for many people in critical situations, not to mention the fact that the main road to get there often floods and is impassable.

We deserve better.