

**Submission  
No 216**

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

**Name:** Ms Skye Beckett and Matthew Beckett

**Date Received:** 28 July 2019

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Attn: The director Portfolio Committee 2

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to you with genuine concern about the way health care has been managed by our government on the Northern Beaches of Sydney.

The closure of two public hospitals has had an enormous impact on the growing population of the Northern Beaches.

Especially the closure of Mona Vale Hospital and access to public hospital facilities and most importantly emergency care facilities.

The New Northern Beaches hospital is a considerable distance from suburbs like Palm Beach at the far end of the Peninsula

This area also swells in population dramatically over the summer months with holiday makers and summer rentals

And our population is tagged to increase dramatically over the next few years with plans for massive over development

Within our electorate.

We desperately need Mona Vale Hospital re opened as a fully functioning public hospital to service our growing community.

But we also need a fully operational Emergency Department restored to this site.

The current facility's at Mona Vale Acute Centre the government feels are adequate are temporary and basic at best.

And it seems some basic services that were originally available at the acute care centre at Mona Vale are slowly being removed.

Blood collection for example is no longer possible, I feel the services are being eroded so the government can say it's not viable and close this limited service also.

In an emergency patients on the Northern Beaches have to travel to Royal North Shore hospital for treatment.

This is a considerable distance from our area and can take hours on our heavily congested and in many places single lane roads. The main access to the NB hospital is also flood prone and closes many times a year and in a bush fire zone.

We are told that in extreme situations a helicopter can be brought from Bankstown a considerable distance away

But naturally this is weather dependent.

Mona Vale hospital over the past few years had significant upgrades made to it including a new maternity ward and asbestos removal as well as other improvements.

There is no doubt that Mona Vale Hospital needs to be upgraded but it is a small price to pay to keep public hospital and emergency facilities within reach of the residents of our area.

There is no doubt that the Northern Beaches Hospital in time will be a great facility but it should never have been our only facility, A private company was never going to be able to run a public hospital and that has been proven before.

It should be a fully private facility that works in conjunction with a fully functioning Mona Vale Hospital as the local trauma centre for the Northern Beaches.

I feel the public hospitals were closed as part of the deal with the NB hospital parent company so there would be no competition to the new facility. Instead with have nothing left at Mona

Vale and new Public / Private hospital that is struggling and I understand this is also affecting public patient numbers and Royal North Shore as patients choose to bypass Norther Beaches Hospital.

I understand the Government is soon to start demolition on The Mona Vale Hospital site so that it can never be opened again and I wonder at their haste in getting this done.

Demolition should be stopped pending the outcome of this enquirey.

The people of the northern beaches are being poorly represented by our local officials and the best and safest

outcomes for our community are being set aside due to deals with big business that have little to do with

Healthcare outcomes or safety.

With no emergency services in close proximity for our communities lives are without doubt being put at risk

Unnecessarily.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Skye & Matthew Beckett  
**Accounts/Administration**