

**INQUIRY INTO CURRENT AND FUTURE PROVISION OF  
HEALTH SERVICES IN THE SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY  
GROWTH REGION**

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RE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO THE CURRENT  
AND FUTURE PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES  
IN THE SOUTH WEST SYDNEY GROWTH REGION.

The Chairman of the Committee

Dear Sir,

I wish to make a submission to the above inquiry on the following matters:-

As I am 77 years of age I can't really speak about what the area will be like in 2050, I can however speak about the area since 2005 when I moved to Ingleburn . In this 15 years the Macarthur region has expanded rapidly, areas of bushland have become treeless plains with new suburbs like Bardia, Ingleburn Gardens, Edmondson Park, Macquarie Links, Harrington Park and Harrington Grove and Oran Park Town to name but a few. Campbelltown is becoming a sea of apartments and there is now talk of building 5 storey apartments on the old winery estate of Gledswood.

Most of these new homes will be occupied by young families with young children, here lies the problem with health issues. The area is serviced partly by Liverpool Hospital Tier 1, Campbelltown Hospital Tier 2 and Camden Hospital grade unknown. None of these hospitals (as I am led to believe) can operate on children. They have to be sent to the Children's Hospitals at either Westmead or Randwick. Neuro Surgery can only be done at Liverpool Hospital and Camden Hospital does not have Maternity Facilities. With such a large population I was appalled to find out we have only 10 palliative care beds in the whole of the Macarthur Region. This in itself is a disgraceful state of affairs and we are only in 2020.

In my opinion the following needs to be done urgently, not thought about when and if it should happen.

1. A new hospital be built in the Badgery's Creek area.
2. All three existing hospitals (Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden) be upgraded to provide all medical services (maternity, neuro and paediatrics)
3. A special unit be built in the region for mental health and community and allied health services. This be a separate unit not built as part of a hospital.

As Campbelltown Hospital is some distance from the Railway Station, Camden is not serviced by rail and a new hospital at Badgery's Creek may not have or be near a Rail Station all of these hospitals should have free parking.

I know staff at hospitals try to do their best but sometimes this doesn't always happen at Campbelltown Hospital. I would like to tell you of two instances I can relate to.

A child of 9 years of age was presented at the emergency department on a Friday evening with stomach pains. He was triaged and left to sit there. After he threw up a few times he was told it was something he ate and to go home. His mother refused to take him home and suggested an x ray or ultrasound. "We don't do ultrasounds on weekends" she was told. Finally some one decided he may have an appendix problem. "You will have to take him Randwick" she was told. As it was now midnight she requested an ambulance. After a long delay of hours one finally took them to the Randwick Children's Hospital where the child was found to have a burst appendix which had ruptured his bowel. He had immediate surgery to save his life. (This really happened!!!).

A woman was taken by ambulance to emergency with severe back pains. She was triaged, put in the holding ward and left without any treatment for at least 24 hours.. She was told to take a Panadol, get up, walk around you will feel much better, and go home by one of the Doctors. She was classified by this Doctor as "uncooperative" even though she couldn't walk. After 48 hours another Doctor decided to do an x ray which showed a problem, she was admitted given a MRI which showed an Epidural Abscess on her spine, she was rushed to Liverpool Hospital where she had immediate neuro surgery at 11 p.m. The outcome of this was she lost partial use of her right leg and was told any longer before surgery and she could have ended up dead or life in a wheel chair! (This also really happened!!!).

These are only two instances of poor diagnosis, I am sure there are many more, as I am certain there are many correct decisions made. In the next 30 years we must insure all medical staff are well trained in all facets of health care.

One can only hope an inquiry such as yours can look at these problems and upgrade existing hospitals and build a new one. In 2050 people in the Macarthur and surrounding areas may then have a sound and professional medical system to look forward to.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully,

Colin Jackson.