

**Submission
No 21**

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

Organisation: Medical Paediatrics - Campbelltown Hospital

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**Medical Paediatrics
Campbelltown Hospital
PO Box 149
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560
Phone: (02) 4634 4141
Fax: (02) 4634 3650**



20 March 2020

The Hon. John Ajaka, MLC
President Legislative Council of NSW
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Ajaka and Committee Members

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

We would like to state that after many inquiries, health planning briefs and other independent reviews ie. Garling Report and Henry Review, there is no doubt that the South-West Sydney paediatric population and births are among the largest in Australia. Furthermore, there is increasing migration of children with special needs born elsewhere now living in the Macarthur Region.

The two Children's Hospitals in Sydney, Westmead and Randwick, have limitations in serving the needs of South-West Sydney. It is estimated that between 30-40% of all congenital anomalies are born in South-West Sydney and rely on travelling out of area for care.

Campbelltown Hospital has a long tradition of training health professionals related to Paediatrics and Newborn Care. The trainees have subsequently gained employment across the nation. We have the volume and complexity of patients which should be managed locally. Our activity is comparable to other cities like Gold Coast which have a major Paediatric Service. Currently we rely on our strong spirit and work ethic to maintain a highly efficient and community orientated service. There is a need for acute Paediatric Surgery and many other paediatric subspecialties locally.

There is no doubt that the current State Government has committed to major hospital infrastructure being built to serve the local population. There is no clear allocation of funding or Clinical Governance to ensure Sydney Children's Hospital Network (SCHN) is actually providing their subspecialist staff to support Campbelltown. Our children's needs are not appropriately prioritised.

NSW Ministry has the key objective of "**RIGHT CARE, RIGHT PLACE and RIGHT TIME**". It remains the status quo that some of our so called "colleagues" are keen to promote their own "insular practices" at their tertiary departments.

They continue to encourage children of Macarthur to travel to specialised services at Westmead and Randwick Children's Hospitals to prop up their activity numbers. There is also selective triaging of referrals, based on "**residential post codes**" to limit access to tertiary subspecialties.

In the meantime we continue to provide the best paediatric care to our local patients. As a team we remain passionate to advocate for the local community, a community which represents approximately 30% of NSW children's population and growing.

I am sure my team is happy to contribute to the inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Dr Raymond Chin

A / PROF RAYMOND CHIN MBBS FRACP

Director of Paediatrics Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals
Area Stream Director of Paediatrics and Neonatology SWSLHD
Western Sydney University Medical School