

**Media release
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Scamps Urges Minns Government to Urgently Engage with NBH Medical Staff on Private Services

Federal Member for Mackellar, Dr Sophie Scamps MP, is calling on the NSW Health Minister to urgently consult with medical specialists and staff at Northern Beaches Hospital (NBH) about the future of private services there, as the public component of the hospital transitions to public hands.

“Medical specialists and staff are being left in the dark, unable to plan for their patients, which is deeply concerning,” Dr Scamps said.

Specialists have reported a lack of consultation or communication from the Northern Sydney Local Health District and the NSW Health Minister Ryan Park regarding the hospital’s future model.

“The lack of consultation and communication with medical staff is understandably creating a great deal of uncertainty and consternation for the doctors,” Dr Scamps said.

Dr Scamps expressed concern that the complexity of the transition discussions has overlooked the vital role private services play in providing comprehensive medical access for the Northern Beaches.

“Our healthcare system relies on both public and private healthcare, and our community benefits greatly from the world-class private services provided at NBH - including interventional cardiology, maternity, gynaecology, oncology and orthopaedic surgery.”

“The Minns Labor Government must ensure that the current private services offered at Northern Beaches Hospital are retained. They should not be interfered with as the public part of the hospital is transitioned to public hands,” Dr Scamps said.

Dr Scamps also raised concerns about the broader implications of a loss of private services.

“If the State Government removes private capacity from NBH, 77 per cent of people across the Northern Beaches who hold private health insurance will lose local options for their care,” Dr Scamps said.

“This has real consequences for timely access to critical services for many people. We must not allow a state decision to erase private healthcare access for an entire metropolitan region.

I call on the Minns Government to be open with their intentions for the private hospital services and to urgently meet with the specialists and staff at NBH to ensure their voices are heard in this transition.

Ultimately, it will be the community who are worse off if these private services are not retained.”

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