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Dr Sophie urges Healthscope to reach agreement with insurers for the wellbeing of Northern Beaches patients

Federal Independent Member for Mackellar, Dr Sophie Scamps, has urged Healthscope, the operator of Northern Beaches Hospital, to urgently reach agreement with health insurers before the upcoming contract termination deadlines.

There is growing apprehension within the Northern Beaches community regarding the potential consequences of these negotiations, specifically the prospect of increased out-of-pocket expenses for patients or the necessity to seek medical care from facilities other than Northern Beaches Hospital, if agreements are not reached.

“I’ve heard from many Mackellar residents who are deeply upset about Healthscope’s decision last November to terminate the contracts with Bupa and the Australian Health Service Alliance, which will put more pressure on households during a cost-of-living crisis,” Dr Scamps said.

“Northern Beaches families should be receiving high quality healthcare when they need it at their local hospital. Healthscope should be first and foremost serving the Northern Beaches community, not trying to boost corporate bank balances.

“People have told me that these unwelcome changes pose a significant challenge for many Northern Beaches residents who rely on accessible and affordable healthcare services close to home.

“I understand negotiations can be complex and multifaceted, but I urge Healthscope to listen to the Northern Beaches community and prioritise the needs and wellbeing of patients and reach an agreement now.”

Meanwhile, Dr Scamps has successfully campaigned for the NSW Government to audit

the Northern Beaches Hospital's provision of public health services, which is currently underway.

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