

Media release
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**Receivership news more proof Northern Beaches Hospital must
urgently return to public hands**

Dr Sophie Scamps MP, the Federal Member for Mackellar, says the news that Healthscope is heading into receivership provides more evidence that Northern Beaches Hospital must be returned to public management as soon as possible.

“Prior to and since the hospital’s opening in 2018, concerns about Northern Beaches Hospital’s performance under a public private partnership (PPP) have been raised repeatedly by hospital staff, patients, and their families,” Dr Scamps said.

“Despite repeated warnings and clear evidence of systemic failures of the PPP - provided at the 2019 Parliamentary Inquiry and reiterated by the recent findings of NSW Auditor-General’s report - hospital staff are still facing persistent operational issues that directly impact care quality and staff wellbeing.

“What is clear is that hospital staff have not been listened to, effectively resourced or supported by Healthscope for many years. We now have Healthscope going into receivership and the hospital relying on lifeline funding to continue operations.

“This is just more proof that the public hospital must be returned to the State Government as soon as possible and that we must never allow an acute public hospital to be owned by a for-profit private foreign entity that does not have Australians’ interests at heart – putting profit before patient care.”

Dr Scamps also pointed to the continued fight by nurses and midwives to have an agreed 5.5% increase to pay and allowances that was due to take effect 1 July 2024, implemented by the private operator. Healthscope has refused to implement the wage increase until the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement has been approved by the Fair Work Commission.

“This, and the current uncertainty around the ownership of Healthscope is causing major concern for staff, who are worried about the security of their employment and entitlements,” Dr Scamps said.

“The State Government must step in urgently and provide a fully funded and resourced public hospital that meets the growing needs of our community and effectively supports our doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to provide world class care to the Northern Beaches community.”

Dr Scamps’ submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the safety and quality of health services provided by Northern Beaches Hospital can be accessed [here](#).

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For media inquiries and interviews with Dr Sophie Scamps MP, please contact media@sophiescamps.com.au or 0497 957 321.