

Media Release
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Transition team ushers in new era for Northern Beaches Hospital

The Federal Member for Mackellar, Dr Sophie Scamps MP, has welcomed today's news that the NSW Government has deployed a NSW Health team to work alongside staff at Northern Beaches Hospital to prepare for the hospital's transition from a public-private partnership.

"This news will bring relief to the Northern Beaches community and hospital staff, who have been calling out systemic operational problems with the public-private partnership, including unsafe staffing levels, since the hospital's opening," Dr Scamps said.

"Today marks a new era for Northern Beaches Hospital, which is now on a pathway to be brought back under public management and fulfill its core purpose - delivering safe, effective, and equitable healthcare for the Northern Beaches now and into the future.

"What is clear is that hospital staff have not been listened to, effectively resourced or supported by Healthscope, the private operator of the hospital, for many years - however this stops today."

The transition assessment and planning team from the Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) will be on site at the hospital to work with Healthscope to understand the priority areas for when the operations of the hospital are transitioned to NSLHD and NSW Health.

The team will assess key areas where gaps exist in policy, procedures, and operational practices - such as IT systems, staffing, and clinical applications - between the hospital's current operations and its future integration into the NSW Health system.

Dr Scamps asserted that future transition plans must include a review of the current level of funding and provision of public health services, in consultation with hospital staff, local healthcare providers and the community, to ensure the hospital meets public health standards and mandates akin to equivalent public hospitals in NSW.

"A future transition must see the NSW Government implement minimum safe staffing ratios in line with the State Government's Safe Staffing Initiative and worker entitlements and pay standards for nurses and midwives in line with all other NSW public hospitals," Dr Scamps said.

Commercial negotiations around the transition are ongoing, and a transition timeline is yet to be released.

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For media inquiries and interviews with Dr Sophie Scamps MP, please contact media@sophiescamps.com.au or 0413 349 764.