

Labor

# MEDIA RELEASE

## A FRESH START FOR NSW

**DAVID HARRIS MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE CENTRAL COAST  
MEMBER FOR WYONG**

**YASMIN CATLEY MP  
MEMBER FOR SWANSEA**

**DAVID MEHAN MP  
MEMBER FOR THE ENTRANCE**

**LIESL TESCH MP  
MEMBER FOR GOSFORD**

**SAM BOUGHTON  
CANDIDATE FOR TERRIGAL**

### **SECOND WORST IN NSW FOR ED & ELECTIVE SURGERY, AMBULANCE WAIT-TIMES BLOW OUT**

The Central Coast Health system continues to suffer under the severe strain of nurse shortages, staff burnout and cuts according to new data from NSW Health.

Data released by the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) has revealed that the Central Coast has slipped to the second worst Local Health District (LHD) in NSW for emergency treatment and elective surgeries wait-times. The data also exposes a large increase in ambulance arrival times.

The October – December data released by the BHI on Wednesday shows that the growing crisis within our local healthcare systems on the Central Coast continues to impact our hospitals.

#### **Emergency Departments**

Central Coast Hospitals fell to **the second lowest result** in NSW for emergency department treatment times falling behind every other Local Health District except Western Sydney.

At Gosford and Wyong Hospital Emergency Departments about **50 per cent** of patients didn't receive treatment on time (48.1% at Gosford & 49.8% at Wyong).

Some patients waited for nearly **50 per cent longer** in Central Coast Hospitals to be transferred from an ambulance to staff within EDs compared with other LHDs (CCLHD 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of 1 hour and 20 minutes compared with the NSW average of 56 minutes).

### **Elective Surgery**

Elective surgery wait times have blown out to **second worst in NSW** for urgent and non-urgent surgeries. Central Coast was second only to Far West Local Health District.

Waits for elective surgery now stand at **17 days** and **401 days** for urgent and non-urgent elective surgeries respectively.

### **Ambulance Wait-times**

Emergency cases are classified as **priority 1 (P1)** by NSW Ambulance and require an **immediate response**.

In the **Gosford area (SA3)** nearly **60 per cent** of P1 patients not have an ambulance arrive within the arrival benchmark time of 15 minutes. In the **Wyong area (SA3)** **53 per cent** of P1 patients waited beyond the arrival benchmark time. Both areas were down compared with October – December 2021 during the tail end of the height of Covid-19.

NSW Labor has announced a health package to tackle this crisis late last year. The package includes:

- **\$175 million to recruit 1,200 nurses and midwives** within the first four years of a Minns Government.
- **Reform the current nurse rostering system** and replace it with an enforceable minimum shift-by-shift staffing model.
- **Removing the public sector wage cap** which limits pay increases for nurses, paramedics & health workers
- **\$150 million to fund an additional 500 paramedics** over four years.

### **Quotes attributable to Member for Wyong David Harris:**

"The figures for our local hospitals have declined from the same period last year when Covid was still a big factor. The government has dropped the ball and our hospital staff and community are suffering the consequences with long waits."

### **Quotes attributable to Member for Swansea Yasmin Catley:**

"The latest BHI data proves that we are experiencing a health crisis. We know that at Gosford and Wyong about 50 per cent of patients didn't receive treatment on time. The Coast also had the second worst wait times for elective surgery".

"This simply isn't good enough. Local patients and health staff have been crying out for help, but the Government has failed to act. Labor is committed to fixing this crisis".

**Quotes attributable to Member for The Entrance David Mehan:**

“These statistics are further proof that we need to be upgrading Long Jetty Hospital to provide primary care for the community.”

**Quotes attributable to Member for Gosford, Liesl Tesch:**

“Our hospitals are in crisis and our healthcare workers are overstretched and overworked.

“Labor’s policy will employ more nurses at Gosford and Wyong’s hospital wards, ease the huge workload on our burnout health staff and pay them a fair and decent wage.

“After 12 years of neglect, pay cuts and staff shortages, Dominic Perrottet needs to go to save our hospitals and ensure we keep our nurses and health workers to deliver better care for our community.

**Quotes attributable to Labor Candidate for Terrigal, Sam Boughton:**

“Our local health workers kept going through years of COVID-19 and a lot of them are feeling exhausted and overworked. Many nurses have left the profession because the conditions have become so hard”

“We need a government which cares for our nurses so that they can deliver quality care for our community”.

**ENDS**

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