

EMBARGOED: 6AM TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

**DAVID HARRIS MP
LABOR SHADOW MINISTER FOR
CENTRAL COAST**

**LIESL TESCH
MEMBER FOR GOSFORD**

**DAVID MEHAN
MEMBER FOR THE ENTRANCE**

FUNDING SHORT FALL CONCERNS FOR CENTRAL COAST HOSPITALS

At a time when Bureau of Health Institute Statistics show that presentations at our two emergency departments is up by 12.7% for the April to June quarter (Gosford + 13%, Wyong + 12.1%), a memo to staff has indicated serious budget issues.

The memo which talks about the budget allocation for the 2019-2020 financial year says *“This means that we will need to work together to manage our expenses which currently exceed available funding”*.
(see attached memo)

Our Central Coast Health staff are already pushed to the limit and the people of the Central Coast deserve adequate funding for our major hospitals.

Although there has been a 3.8% increase in funding from last year this is failing to keep up with demand and leading to the Central Coast Local Health District trying to find ways to tighten their belt.

“The good will of our fantastic staff at Gosford and Wyong hospitals can’t be exploited any longer”. Liesl Tesch, Member for Gosford said.

“Local residents are suffering from longer wait times and surgery cancellations due to funding not keeping up with demand”. David Mehan, Member for The Entrance said.

“The current funding to staff our hospitals is not keeping up with the population growth, placing incredible strain on the system”. David Harris, Shadow Minister for the Central Coast said.

Facts

1. In the April/June quarter 2019 there were 36,699 emergency presentations up 4,147 or 12.7% on the same quarter last year.
2. Elective surgery performed 2,517 procedures which is only 6 extra patients or 0.2% increase even though the population of the Central Coast is increasing.
3. Overall there were 23,278 patients' admissions in the April/June quarter which was 615 more than the same time last year an increase of 2.7%.

Ends

DATE: TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2019

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