

Labor

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED: 5AM THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

**RYAN PARK MP
LABOR SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

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

**YASMIN CATLEY MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR SWANSEA**

**DAVID MEHAN MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR THE ENTRANCE**

**LIESL TESCH MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR GOSFORD**

HUNDREDS OF PATIENTS HAVE SURGERY CANCELLED; BUDGET CUTS ON THE WAY MAY LEAD TO MORE CANCELLATIONS

Over the course of 13 months, more than 1,200 residents across the Central Coast have had their scheduled surgeries cancelled on the day they were supposed to be operated on, it has been revealed in figures uncovered by the Shadow Minister for Health, Ryan Park.

The figures* show that within the Central Coast Local Health District, from July 2018 to August 2019, the total Number of Day Surgery Cancellations was 1,289.

Mr Park said that the figures highlighted a health system that is under stress.

According to the Bureau of Health Information at the April – June quarter there were 3,816 people ready and waiting for surgery within the Central Coast Local Health District.

“More people than ever on the elective surgery waiting list and dozens of people each week are cancelled at the last minute thanks to a health system that is not able to cope. People are left waiting for months to only be told on the day that their procedure won’t go ahead and this is simply not good enough” Mr Park said.

Mr Park said with a further \$250 million set to be ripped out of the health budget, things are only going to get worse.

Central Coast Labor MPs will seek a briefing from Central Coast Local Health District to better understand why this situation has occurred.

“Cuts to health aren’t felt at the top, they’re felt in every ward and every bed. Nurses and doctors are doing their best but are limited to the resources provided to them.

“Gladys Berejiklian looked the people in the eye at March and said they could have it all. I guess that didn’t include people who are unwell and waiting on vital and necessary procedures” Mr Park said.

Shadow Minister for the Central Coast David Harris said “It’s simply not good enough to have this number of scheduled procedures cancelled, but it is indictive of the Berejiklian Government failure to adequately fund our local hospitals”.

Yasmin Catley Member for Swansea said “Wyong hospital has been pushed to breaking point by the mismanagement of our health system by the Berejiklian Government. It is an absolute disgrace that 1,289 Central Coast residents had their scheduled surgeries cancelled on the same day they were due to be operated on between July and August this year”.

“The Berejiklian Government has earmarked \$150 million in cuts to Local Health Districts across the state this financial year, and it is clear how devastating these cuts have been on the Central Coast. I call upon the Premier to restore this essential funding to ensure our Local Health Districts have the resources they require”. Yasmin Catley said.

David Mehan Member for The Entrance said “These figures are worrying. We need a plan to deal with surgery cancellations on the Central Coast”.

Liesl Tesch Member for Gosford said “The growing population of the Central Coast needs more respect from this Liberal government it is not fair to people who are already waiting so long that these critical services are now completely unreliable”.

*See attachment

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