

**YASMIN CATLEY MP
MEMBER FOR SWANSEA
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

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

**DAVID MEHAN MP
MEMBER FOR THE ENTRANCE**

**LIESL TESCH MP
MEMBER FOR GOSFORD**

CENTRAL COAST PATIENTS LEFT BEHIND

Labor has condemned the Berejiklian Government after the latest health data shows Central Coast patients waiting twice as long for urgent elective surgery.

The data recently released from the Bureau of Health Information for the period of January to March 2020, highlighted that patients at Wyong Hospital are waiting double the State median waiting time for urgent elective surgery. The median wait-time for non-urgent surgery also exceeded the State-wide waiting time by 55 days.

Patients at Gosford Hospital fared little better with the median wait-time for urgent elective surgery coming in at 15 days compared with the State median of 10 days. Those awaiting non-urgent elective surgery also found themselves waiting 42 days longer than the median State waiting time.

Member for Swansea, Yasmin Catley MP said “The Berejiklian Government has ignored the needs of Central Coast patients for far too long, its time the Government gave the Central Coast community the health resources it requires to ease the strain on our local hospitals”.

Member for Wyong, David Harris MP said "The Government can't hide behind the pandemic. The fact is these figures represent the enormous strain on the local public health system before the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic hit."

"These figures have been worsening for years and the Government must take responsibility for that."

"Our growing community needs an injection of funding for staff, not just new buildings."

Member for The Entrance said "The NSW Liberal Government continue to cut funding from the Central Coast Local Health District. First they try to privatise our hospital, then continue to allow understaffing and now this. When are the NSW Liberal Government going to stop playing politics with people's lives?"

Member for Gosford, Liesl Tesch MP, said "patients are bearing the brunt of government health cuts".

"Locals are being left to live with medical conditions that could be treated earlier if our health system received the funding it needed to look after our community," Ms Tesch said.

"This is what cuts to healthcare look like - patients face increased waiting times, paramedics deal with bed block at emergency departments, and doctors and nurses get run off their feet just trying to do their rounds. Enough is enough."

Labor is calling on the Berejiklian Government to immediately reinstate critical funding to restore the damage done by their \$252 million in cuts to NSW Health last year.

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