

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

**GLADYS HIDES FROM ICARE PROBLEMS TO
RE-ANNOUNCE OLD COMMITMENTS**

The Premier visits Wyong today to view two projects announced years ago to hide from the Sydney media concerning questions about the administration of iCare by the NSW Treasurer's Office, David Harris Shadow Minister for the Central Coast said today.

The Wyong Hospital upgrade was first announced in 2015, but construction did not commence until late last year, while the new school to be called Porters Creek Public School was announced in the 2017 budget.

The NSW Premier should be apologising to northern Central Coast residents for the long wait for both of these projects, particularly as the Liberal Government tried unsuccessfully to privatise the operation of Wyong Hospital.

"During the Premier's visit today, I ask that she offers an explanation to injured Central Coast workers, as to how iCare has been so poorly run by Treasurer Dominic Perrottet." Said Mr Harris.

"Revelations that staff were employed in the Treasurer's Office paid for by injured workers money, trips by iCare executives overseas including Las Vegas, huge executives' salaries and 52,000 injured workers left underpaid has already seen the Treasurer's Chief of Staff and the CEO of iCare forced to resign." Said Mr Harris.

"The Premier instead escapes to Wyong to make announcements about old projects years behind time instead of forcing her Treasurer to stand aside and have a proper investigation into the link between his office and the workers compensation scheme." Said Mr Harris.

NSW Labor has called on Mr Perrottet to step aside and for the iCare Board to be dismissed, this is a test of the Premier's Leadership.

Under Dominic Perrottet's stewardship:

- iCare underpaid 52,000 workers up to \$80 million.

- iCare secretly tried to cut off payments to thousands of injured workers to make up for years of multi-billion losses in the state's workers compensation scheme.
- The State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA) made referrals about iCare to the Independent Commission Against Corruption for further investigation.
- A damning independent review found that in 46 percent of claims handled, iCare failed to follow the relevant law.
- iCare racked up underwriting losses totalling \$4.54 billion in the past three years.
- iCare's \$3.9 billion surplus effectively disappeared, before COVID-19 affected investment returns.
- iCare sought to hike employer premiums by 4% and introduce a 'gap fee' for injured workers needing to see a doctor.

ENDS

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