

MEDIA STATEMENT

Date: 21 June 2019

Sydney North Health Network and Northern Beaches Hospital

Sydney North Health Network (SNHN) has been collating feedback from General Practitioners (GPs) and General Practices since the opening of the Northern Beaches Hospital.

Ongoing consultation with Northern Beaches Hospital (NBH) Clinicians and their Executive resulted in the development of the Northern Beaches Hospital GP Information evening, held earlier this year on Tuesday 26 March. This was a constructive evening, involving different specialists from the hospital and provided clarity on what services were available, and how GPs can access these services for their patients. A number of concerns were raised during the discussion, including communication of electronic discharge summaries and restricted GP referral access to some public outpatient services.

SNHN have continued to meet with the Northern Beaches Hospital, the Northern Sydney Local Health District, and the NSW Ministry of Health to work through the identified issues and look at options for the development of innovative models of care, to improve access to services and avoid unnecessary presentations to the Emergency Department.

The SNHN CEO Lynelle Hales said “The discussion is progressing, with a collective recognition of the transitional issues and the need to work together. We also acknowledge the need to review the referral pathways to inform decisions and drive improvements.”

SNHN will continue to collate feedback and will input into the Legislative Council Inquiry at the end of July.

The SNHN Chair, Kate Loxton added: “The key priority of SNHN is working with our partners to ensure primary care, and hospital health services are effectively coordinated, accessible and patient-centred – that is, they best meet the needs of our local community”.

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About Sydney North Health Network

The Sydney North Health Network (SNHN) operates the Northern Sydney PHN, one of the 31 Commonwealth funded Primary Health Networks (PHNs). SNHN is a not-for-profit organisation. The key focus of SNHN is to enable the 907,008 people in our region to care for their own health effectively and when necessary, navigate the complex health care and support system appropriately. This is best achieved by working collaboratively with our network of local health providers including General Practice, Allied Health, the Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) and other public and private health and social care services.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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