

Hospital Issues for Manly

The provision of local health and hospital services is vital for community well-being.

Although Manly Council has a limited role in the provision of health care services, Council plays a role in terms of assessing community needs and lobbying on national, state and regional level to ensure the provision of adequate health services for the Manly community, and working with other required stakeholders.

Council is also involved in planning for safe, healthy urban development and facilitating appropriate local medical and health services are developed in the Manly LGA in the appropriate land use zones.

Background

Based on identified community needs and service gaps, Manly Council provides directly or supports some related community health services, such as childcare services, childhood immunization, Meals on Wheels, health promotion, adolescent and family counseling, and youth recreation programs.

Over the last years, there has been an ongoing public concern reiterated to Council regarding deteriorating local health services and need for clarity regarding the future redevelopment of the Manly Hospital site. Some of the issues communicated to Council have included a reduction of hospital beds, wards, community health services, and closures of nursing homes in Manly.

As well, based on current demographics and future projections, there will be an increased demand for children's and neonatal services, as well as for aged care and rehabilitation services.

The former NSW Government was slow to further commit funds and resources to the new Level 5 Hospital project proposed for Frenchs Forest announced in March 2006. Concept plans for the re-zoning and development of Frenchs Forest Hospital went on public exhibition by the NSW Department of Planning in February 2011 at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>. The Hospital was also declared to be a major development under Part 3A under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 in February 2011. The current operations of Manly Hospital are summarised on the NSW Health Site <http://www.nscchealth.nsw.gov.au/services/003700641.shtml>

It has been Manly Council's position for a number of years that a new level 5 hospital facility is needed for the Northern Beaches at Frenchs Forest, and that the NSW Government should see this as a priority funding action. As well, in the interim that services and facilities at Manly hospital services should continue to be maintained and funded until such time as the new facility is completed and operational. Council has also stated that the Manly Hospital land should be retained as a health care facility, or designated for aged care, to meet future demand.

Survey

On 14 March 2011 at its Ordinary Meeting, Manly Council resolved to conduct a poll of elected residents as part of its community engagement process to indicate their preferences for the new Frenchs Forest Hospital and the future of the existing Manly hospital.

Therefore, the Manly Council is now conducting a poll in order to understand what its residents prefer to see in the future for Manly health and hospital services.

It is conducting this poll using Bang the Table's services to moderate comments, seek opinions and ensure valid results.

Survey Results

The result of the survey will be available on-line.

An assessment of the responses to this survey will be prepared by Council staff and reported to Council to enable a fair and impartial "for" and "against" cases for the two locations and development of facilities.