



**CHRIS MINNS MP
NSW LABOR LEADER**

**RYAN PARK MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**NSW LABOR: INQUIRY INTO HEALTH – ENSURING EVERY DOLLAR
DELIVERS**

A Minns Labor Government will establish a Special Commission of Inquiry into health funding to ensure money is being spent effectively to improve health outcomes across the state.

A report released earlier this week by the Health Services Union has recommended an independent inquiry to urgently examine the structural issues undermining the performance of the health system.

Health expenditure in NSW takes up more than any other part of the NSW Budget.

This will be the first time that a detailed, independent analysis of that expenditure and its correlation to health outcomes.

Some of the key challenges identified in the report by *Impact Economics and Policy* released earlier this week include:

- Workforce shortages caused by poor planning and limits on scope of practice;
- Underinvestment in community health care and a lack of incentives for coordination across disciplines; and
- Long term sustainability of funding healthcare to ensure efficiency and better patient outcomes.

If elected, a Minns Labor Government will immediately start the process to establish a Special Commission of Inquiry and we will consult across the health sector to make sure the Terms of Reference is comprehensive.

One of the issues it will look at is waste and duplication, and how it can be reinvested into the health system to optimise patient outcomes.

Under 12 years of the Liberals

Hospitals in NSW have been overwhelmed, under-resourced and severely neglected over the last decade.

- A quarter of patients waited longer than 30 minutes in the back of the ambulance outside emergency departments – and 10 per cent waited almost seven minutes.
- Once in the emergency department, half of patients triaged as critical did not start treatment on time, and one in 10 patients needing admission spent almost an entire 24 hours in the ED.
- Meanwhile over 66,000 patients simply left emergency without receiving or completing their treatment, and almost 18,000 patients were left sitting on the elective surgery waiting list longer than medically recommended.

Labor's fresh start for health

Labor will also start the long-term plan to redesign and repair the health system and deliver a fresh start for health in New South Wales. We've already announced:

- **Safe staffing levels in NSW hospitals.** It will help with workloads; it will take pressure of nurses and ensure they can treat patients with the care they deserve and need.
- An additional **500 rural and regional paramedics** in Labor's first term.
- Returning **600 beds to Western Sydney** after 365 were across NSW by the Liberals since 2016.
- **Upgrades to Canterbury, Fairfield, Mount Druitt and Blacktown Hospitals** and opening the new **Eurobodalla Hospital at Level 4.**
- A commitment to build **Rouse Hill Hospital** including an emergency department.

Quotes attributable to Chris Minns, NSW Labor Leader:

"Our healthcare system can't afford another four years of Liberal neglect.

"There is an enormous amount of money going into health yet we still see very poor health outcomes for patients

"With thousands of people walking out of ED's every month without receiving treatment, is a pretty clear indicator that something is very wrong.

"Labor has a plan to repair and renew our health system so that those who need care can get the care they need when they need it.

"This Special Commission of Inquiry is an opportunity to provide long term structural repair."

Quotes attributable to Ryan Park, Shadow Minister for Health:

"After 12 years of neglect, it's time for a fresh start for the NSW health system.

“We must ensure that that taxpayers money is spent effectively and that it is delivering improved health outcomes for the community.”

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