

MANLY

Healthscope: Six health funds to no longer cover major Sydney hospitals

Members of six health funds will soon no longer be covered a several major Sydney hospitals, including Northern Beaches Hospital and Prince of Wales Private, leaving patients with extra out-of-pocket expenses or having to go elsewhere.

Julie Cross, Manly Daily

 Subscriber only | May 15, 2020 1:49pm



 Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest.

Members of six health funds will no longer be covered at 42 Healthscope hospitals including several major Sydney ones.

In a media release from the Teachers Health Fund it stated that it was still in negotiations but that Healthscope had moved to terminate its contract, along with five other health funds.

“Unfortunately, their new terms included higher charges for our members’ hospital admissions, and this would’ve had an adverse impact on premiums,” the statement said.



 Minister for Health Brad Hazzard at a COVID-19 press conference this week.

It also said that Healthscope wanted additional charges to comply with industry minimum standards for rehabilitation and mental health.

“We want the best quality of care for our members and we expect industry minimum standards to be met as a baseline,” the statement said.

Healthscope hospitals in NSW include Campbelltown Private Hospital, Mosman Private Hospital, Nepean Private Hospital, Newcastle Private Hospital, Northern Beaches Hospital, Norwest Private Hospital, Prince of Wales Private Hospital, Sydney Southwest Private Hospital, The Hills Private Hospital, The Sydney Clinic, Tweed Day Surgery, Hunter Valley Private and Lady Davidson Private.



📷 Campbelltown Private Hospital and Park Central.

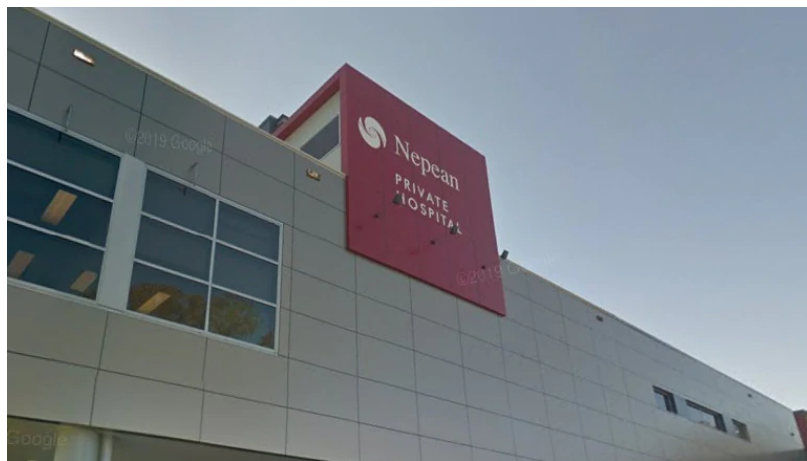
One northern beaches resident and member of the Teachers Health Fund, Rhiannon Lever, 25, of Belrose, said all her family were in the fund including her elderly grandmother, who lived closed to the new Northern Beaches Hospital.

“It’s really disappointing,” she said.

“We will only go there now for emergency care.”

Ms Lever said her family has written to Health Minister Brad Hazzard over the issue.

In the letter which she forwarded to the *Manly Daily*, she said she was concerned about the claims around mental health and rehabilitation services.



📷 Nepean Private Hospital. Picture: Google.

“I have significant concerns regarding this situation and my family’s confidence about using our local hospital for both public and private services,” she said.

“We will definitely now be putting more burden on Royal North Shore due to both concerns regarding service standards and also costs over and above our private health fund expenses just to use the local hospital / facility.”



📷 Northern Beaches Hospital: Julian Andrews.

The five other funds that have also been unable to reach a deal include: CUA Health; Commonwealth Bank’s CBHS Corporate Health; Australian Unity, CBHS Health Fund and Reserve Bank Health Society Ltd have been given 45 days notices of Healthscope’s decisions to not proceed with a new contract.

The ending of the Healthscope agreement does not impact emergency hospital admissions and private patients in one of the impacted funds can still claim for hospital admissions but there may be out-of-pocket costs.

In a Healthscope letter to visiting medical officers it said the decision to end the contracts had been made because it was looking to a “longer term future and commercial sustainability beyond the term of any support from the State or Commonwealth government”.

It said the contracts must see Healthscope “appropriately reimbursed for the work our people do every day, and allow us to be able to invest in our facilities and equipment so we can continue to deliver world-class care for patients”.

The *Manly Daily* has sought comment from Healthscope and Mr Hazzard.