



MAYORAL SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

2 February 2010

MM8 SUPP	NURSES – EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, KEMPSEY DISTRICT HOSPITAL FILE: 265	MAYOR	{ Folio No. * }
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SUMMARY:

Reporting on the need for an urgent review of nursing staff numbers with the Emergency Department of Kempsey District Hospital.

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DESCRIPTION:

On Wednesday, 27 January the nurses arranged a protest march from Central Kempsey to West Kempsey in respect to the necessity for one additional Registered Nurse for each shift within the Emergency Department.

The refurbishment of the Department was recently complete at the cost of \$700,000 with an additional four beds being provided.

But **NO** additional staff.

It is understood that during December just over 1,000 patients were treated.

Over the same period Port Macquarie Base Hospital triaged just over 1,500 patients.

Staff	- Kempsey	3 nurses day & evening shifts 2 nurses night duty <i>(including enrolled nurses)</i>
	- Port Macquarie	7 nurses day and evening shifts with five on night duty

Approximately 300 of the patients at Port Macquarie bypass the Emergency Department to the Express Community Care Centre.

The staff at Kempsey Hospital have been invited to work through their meal break for which they will be paid overtime.

This practice simply adds to the stress and frustration and it is dangerous for the patients.

The attention of the Premier, The Hon Kristina Keneally MP has been invited to the situation. However, no response has been received to date.

Councillors Campbell, Green, Saul, Snowsill and Sproule also attended the protest march and meeting together with Mr Andrew Stoner MP Member for Oxley and Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP Member for Cowper.

Late Final Extra

Further to representations to the Federal Minister for Health, The Hon Nicola Roxon MP in respect to the Kempsey District Hospital Master Plan, advice has been received that the New South Wales Government is still responsible for hospitals in New South Wales, and it is understood the Master Plan, appropriately, has been provided to the New South Wales Minister for Health for consideration.

Whatever happened to Mr Rudd's threat in 2007?

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

N/A

- ***Social***

Having adequate staffing within the important area of the hospital is essential for the benefit of the community.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Nil

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minister for Health, The Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP be again requested to visit Kempsey District Hospital, or to receive a deputation from Council and the community, to address the issue of adequate staffing within the Emergency Department of Kempsey District Hospital.

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J H Howell
MAYOR