



Greg Piper MP
Member for Lake Macquarie

MEDIA RELEASE



Southlake Integrated Health Care Committee

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A Southlake Integrated Health Care Facility

The campaign for a major new health care facility including sub acute beds and a raft of other medical services has taken a big step forward with a report by the Southlake Integrated Health Care Committee. (SIHCC)

Lake Macquarie MP Greg Piper and Committee President John Quinlan jointly announced the completion of a comprehensive study into the health care needs of the Morisset area.

“A new hospital was a key part of my election policy,” Mr Piper said. “Since the public meeting I convened in 2007 John and our committee have worked hard and consulted widely to produce this viable proposal for an integrated health care facility.”

“This report presents a compelling case for a fully integrated public/private health facility – a one stop shop for a broad range of health care needs,” Mr Quinlan said.

In addition to sub acute beds, services would include day surgery, X-ray and CT scans, physiotherapy, children’s and youth services, mental health and dental services.

The recent report of the National Health and Hospitals Commission strongly supports the model proposed by SIHCC, which will bring together primary and allied health care services in one location and will:

- provide rehabilitation services not readily available in acute care hospitals
- provide appropriate transition care for older people to prevent unnecessary admission to nursing homes
- ease the demand for acute care hospital beds for people who are too ill to be cared for at home but who still need medical supervision.

The committee’s investigation of census data shows that the median age in the catchment is five years above the national average and the median income is 20% below average. Also, residential growth is above average and the population could reach 50,000 over the next twenty years.

“At the outset, the community voiced the difficulty of accessing hospital and specialist services in the Southlake area where residential growth and the ageing of the population are above the national average,” Mr Quinlan added.

“The committee’s aim is now to bring this matter before the decision-makers and together with John Quinlan I will be presenting this compelling report to the Premier and the Minister for Health,” Mr Piper said.

The services that should be provided by the Southlake Integrated Health Care Facility are listed on the following page.

Services Proposed for an Integrated Health Care Facility at Morisset

Primary Health Care and Services

- GP clinics and out of hours service
- Non-complex imaging and diagnostics, scans (X-ray, CT, ultrasound, bone density) and scopes (endoscopy, biopsy)
- Specialist and out-patient clinics
- Basic treatments and nurse-care (wound dressing, inoculations etc)
- Minor procedures (minor fractures, cuts)
- Children's services
- Youth services
- Specialised services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Mental health services
- Physiotherapy
- Speech therapy
- Dental services
- Ambulatory day care/ respite care to support carers looking after seriously ill or infirm people at home
- Community care services for those with ongoing health issues but for whom hospitalisation is not appropriate. This particularly relates to frail aged people and includes assessment programs, dementia monitoring, wound dressing and podiatry services
- Specific chronic disease programs, both educational and treatment, for conditions such as diabetes, asthma, arthritis, respiratory diseases/smoking cessation, drug and alcohol treatments, mental health programs, sexual health
- Pre natal and post natal services, recognizing that birthing will normally occur at a major hospital. In some circumstances new mothers may utilise transition beds for short periods
- Multi-disciplinary outreach teams ("hospital in the home" and palliative care)
- Pharmacy
- Voluntary support and carers facilities
- Community health care library
- Social services eg financial counselling

Sub acute hospital care

- Urgent Care Centre (as opposed to full accident and emergency)
- Day procedures / day surgery unit
- Treatment programs delivering chemotherapy, kidney dialysis
- Full diagnostics including radiological services
- Step-down, rehabilitation and GP beds for those recovering from a major acute event such as heart attack, stroke or major surgery such as joint replacement; either as an external patient or as a transition inpatient; using the services of physiotherapists and other consultants in a facility that includes a range of exercise equipment, treatment benches and hydrotherapy
- Palliative care
- Mental health unit (step-up and step down)
- Mortuary