

Dr John Vandervord F.R.A.C.S.

Clinical Director of Surgery & Anaesthesia, RNSH & Clinical Director of Surgery, North Shore Local Health District

Dr John Vandervord is the current Clinical Director of Surgery and Anaesthesia at Royal North Shore Hospital and the Clinical Director of Surgery for North Shore Local Health District (LHD).

He is an executive member of the Medical Staff Council (MSC) at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Dr Vandervord is also the Co-Chair of the NSW Severe Burns Service and is a VMO in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at RNSH and Children's Hospital, Westmead.

He is an Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Sydney and is a Member of the French Academy of Surgeons.

Dr Vandervord is committed to the education of undergraduates from Sydney University and the training of Plastic and Reconstructive registrars, as well as overseas fellows.

He has been involved in many Interplast trips treating patients in developing world countries including Vietnam, Laos, Sri Lanka, The Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Dr Vandervord's thoughts on the NSW Government's redevelopment plans for Royal North Shore Hospital

The planning process for the proposed redevelopment of RNSH has lacked transparency and effective communication between all interested stakeholders. This has given rise to many concerns relating to inadequate bed availability, mixed gender accommodation, a lack of accommodation for out-of-town relatives, childcare, and low cost accommodation for nurses and medical students. The Local Health District and Ministry of Health are working on these issues and I believe these can be solved with greater involvement from stakeholders.

What cannot be reversed is the sale or divestment of valuable land. Land which is not just valuable in terms of economics, but also valuable in terms of patient health and wellbeing.

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Already in 1990, the beautiful land down on the highway was unfortunately sold by previous NSW Governments. It would have been ideal for the present redevelopment.

To do this again is very short sighted and reflects a lack of insight into the future needs of a tertiary hospital in a growing population.

The present proposal to create an even smaller campus at RNSH to accommodate the Ministry of Health is unacceptable. This will further reduce available green space and the recreational area for patients, staff and relatives.

The built environment, especially a hospital environment, should be designed to maximise the healing and wellbeing of patients, staff and visitors through the provision of quality open and green space which is accessible and conducive to the promotion of health and wellbeing.

The importance of the natural environment on healing cannot be underestimated. The creation of a toxic box on Royal North Shore campus is unacceptable.

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To coordinate an interview with Dr John Vandervord, please contact Kirsten Bruce or Ruby Archis from VIVA! Communications on 0401 717 566 or 0413 834 906.