

Dr Tony Joseph FACEM

Director of Trauma & Senior Staff Specialist in Emergency Department, RNSH

Dr Tony Joseph is the Director of Trauma and Senior Staff Specialist in the Emergency Department at Royal North Shore Hospital.

He is the immediate past Chair of the RNSH Medical Staff Council (MSC) and is a current member of the RNSH Medical Staff Council Executive.

He is an Associate Professor at the Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, and a member of the Senior Court of Examiners of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine.



Dr Joseph is also a founding member and the current President of the Australasian Trauma Society.

He is committed to teaching medical students and training junior doctors in Emergency Medicine and Trauma care. He has also been involved in teaching trauma and emergency medicine skills in India, Vietnam and Malaysia.

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

"RNSH is a major referral hospital for 1-in-6 of the NSW population and provides state-wide services in acute spinal injuries and burns. It is the only NSW hospital that provides specialist services in obstetrics and neonatology, as well as being a major adult Trauma service. Inpatient activity is currently growing by 5 per cent each year and we currently require an extra 10-15 beds per annum just to keep up with growth in activity.

In August, 2011, staff at RNSH marched on Parliament House to protest against the proposed sale of up to 30 per cent of the campus land and the shortage of beds in the new RNSH. The new Health Minister, The Hon Jillian Skinner MP, listened to us and promised more beds in a new Clinical Services Building and a halt on any divestment of land pending the development of an appropriate Campus Master Plan.

I was a member of the hospital Master Planning Executive Committee which developed the Master Plan which included Zone 8 on the Southern Campus. This area was designated for "clinical support" activities, which included much needed childcare, carer accommodation for out of town families, low rent accommodation for students and visitors, a medi-hotel for patients who did not require expensive inpatient beds and staff facilities. We recognised there may be an opportunity for "commercial opportunities" on the site, but at no time was this discussed as an opportunity for long-term lease or outright sale of the land. The Expression of Interest for the parcel of land includes the potential for a large multi-story building which could house up to 1,000 people from the NSW Ministry of Health and the 4 Pillars, as well as the other health-related facilities required on the site.

As representatives of the senior medical staff on the campus, we are strongly opposed to any form of long-term divestment of any hospital land and firmly believe that all land should remain under the control of the hospital. The proposed sale or long-term lease of part of the southern campus is planned to raise about \$100 million in order to pay down some of the debt for the new hospital built under a Public Private Partnership.

The sale of any land in order to pay down the debt incurred for the building of the new Acute Services Building under a Public Private Partnership is false economy and demonstrates a lack of vision for the campus for the next 20-30 years. Furthermore, currently accepted international standards for new health care facilities recommend a balance between infrastructure and open space in order to promote patient healing and well-being. A multi-storey building on the southern part of the campus, with a function not directly related to the delivery of clinical care, would not contribute to any of the above ideals.”

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