

BREAKING NEWS !

Plans for Sale of Hospital Land

MEDIA RELEASE

Representatives of local hospital campaign team No More Bandaid Solutions Inc. will attend a special meeting of Tumut Shire Council's 'New Hospital for Tumut' Committee at 5pm today (Thursday 21st January, 2010) to discuss plans to sell off hospital land.

There is growing concern in the community that a plan put forward by a private enterprise consortium, spearheaded by Riverina Division of GPs (RDGP), will lead to the sale of Crown Land **publicly owned since 1898. Tumut Hospital has occupied this land for 112 yrs.**

An application for funding from the Federal Government's National Rural & Remote Infrastructure Fund Program (NRRIFP) is being lodged by RDGP on behalf of the private enterprise group which includes two Tumut doctors and an unidentified private developer.

Efforts to obtain details of the plan by the hospital campaign team have so far been blocked.

Health authorities have confirmed they have "provided in principle support" for the plan.

So far a list of 21 questions put by NMBS Inc. to both GSAHS and Riv Division of GPs have gone unanswered (as at 21.1.2010). A request by NMBS Inc. to meet with GSAHS was refused.

Members of Tumut Health Advisory C'mittee contacted by NMBS Inc. claim they know nothing about the scheme.

A "site master planning exercise" of the hospital land will now be conducted, according to Acting Chief Executive of GSAHS, Dr Maggie Jamieson.

"This planning, paid for with taxpayers' money, should be used to plan for a new hospital, not to plan for a land sell off to patch up gaps in the health budget", according to a NMBS Inc. spokesperson.

The first two stages of planning for a new hospital were done in 2006 and 2007. This showed Tumut Hospital had a low functionality score (39%). The hospital was given a high priority for replacement by health authorities.

The public have a right to know who is making a bid for this land, which would end up being owned by a private developer. Once the land is sold, the process will be irreversible.

There is little time for meaningful input from residents as the deadline for funding applications to the Federal Govt funding program is only 6 working days away.