



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080

Toll Free: 1300 301 839

Fax: (02) 6761 3380

e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au

Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

4 June 2004

Windsor calls on New England community to show unity to keep OUR Health Service OURS!

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor MP is calling on people from across the New England North West coming under the jurisdiction of the New England Area Health Service to show unity to ensure their views on the proposed amalgamation with the Hunter Area Health Service are known.

“It is imperative that if people from the region want to keep the New England Area Health Service in tact, that we stand up and be counted.

We, as a community must now get behind our State Members of Parliament, Peter Draper (Tamworth), Richard Torbay (Northern Tablelands) and Ian Slack-Smith (Barwon) and provide them with a show of strength that we don't want an amalgamation with the Hunter service.

I'm sure that none of us has anything against the Hunter Area Health Service but to amalgamate these two areas is just another power grab by those intent on centralising the decision making process,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor has also supported claims by the former Chairman of the New England Area Health Service (NEAHS), Jim Maher that the amalgamation of the New England Health Area and Newcastle would be a disaster for the region.

“Prof Maher would know what he is talking about having been the Chairman of New England Area Health during the very difficult period of the removal of Local Hospital Boards.

I agree with Mr Maher that the sheer size of the new proposal would detract from advances in confidence and trust in the system in recent years,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also congratulated Peter Draper MP, Member for Tamworth and Richard Torbay MP, Member for Northern Tablelands and the Mayors of the region who took the time to voice their protest to the Health Minister at the NSW Parliament House last week.

“The swift action by Mr Draper, Mr Torbay and the Mayors of the region to front the Health Minister with their opposition to his proposal is to be commended.

This action must now be supported by the broader community in every way possible,” Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 88 68