



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

21 June 2004

Rally in Tamworth tomorrow to fight Health Service merger

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor is urging people of the New England and North West Region to join in the rally in Tamworth tomorrow to fight against the merger of the New England Area Health Service with the Hunter Area Health Service.

“The rally tomorrow is an important show of support to stop any merger between the New England Area Health Service and the Hunter Area Health Service that the New South Wales Health Minister, may have in mind.

Minister Iemma has been claiming that he has not heard much community backlash so it is now vitally important for people to turn up to the rally.

We need to provide a strong showing for our State Members of Parliament, Peter Draper (Tamworth), Richard Torbay (Northern Tablelands) and Ian Slack-Smith (Barwon).

Mr Draper and Mr Torbay will be meeting with the Minister at the time of the rally arguing our case.

We need to give them the backing that we need to maintain the New England Area Health Service as a stand alone entity delivering quality health services to the New England and North West,” Mr Windsor said.

Whilst the Area Health Services come under the NSW State Government’s, Mr Windsor believes there could be implications for Federally funded health services in the region.

“Aged care health services are funded by the Federal Government with an increasing amount of this now being delivered through Multi Purpose Services (MPS) which are jointly funded by the State and Federal Government but administered by the State Government.

I am concerned for these services being provided if the Minister decides to operate our health service by remote control from Newcastle.

There are a number of MPS’s at the point of construction stage and there are others proposed for the region which could fall by the wayside if we lose the ability to have separate budget control through the New England Area Health Service.

We must not become just an outreach service of the Hunter Area Health Service and this is the message the rally in Tamworth tomorrow must send to the NSW Government,” Mr Windsor said.

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