



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Statement
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Abbott's Health Hit List Would Hurt Newcastle

Vital health services in Newcastle would be scrapped under an Abbott Government, says Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP.

Mr Abbott today confirmed that the Coalition would cut vital health services at health and hospital facilities across the country.

"Mr Abbott's announcements today would be disastrous for health services in Newcastle," said Ms Grierson.

"The Opposition Leader already has a long history of health cuts – he cut funding to our public hospitals by \$1 billion when he was Health Minister.

"Here we see him again taking the knife to our local health care system."

The at-risk projects include:

- Elective surgery upgrades for the Royal Newcastle Hospital
- An emergency department upgrade for the Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital
- Transition care places for the Greater Newcastle Cluster Transitional Aged Care Service
- Transitional places for the Lower Hunter Cluster Transitional Aged Care Service

"Mr Abbott would also cut the planned GP Super Clinic for Port Stephens," said Ms Grierson.

"If he is elected, Mr Abbott's health cuts would hurt everybody: from patients; to front line health staff; to the construction workers, planners and engineers helping to build new facilities and improve our health system across the country.

"Only a Gillard Labor Government will deliver national funding, local control and shorter waiting times."

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