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Provest demands independent inquiry into North Coast Health Service

“Chris Crawford needs to step aside because he is not trusted by doctors...”

Tweed Nationals MP Geoff Provest has stepped up the pressure on the Labor State Government over the Tweed hospitals crisis, which has culminated in an unnecessary fatality, demanding the Premier order an independent inquiry into the management of the North Coast Area Health Service.

“Of course we need an inquiry into Wednesday nights ambulance fatality, but that is not enough, we also need a wider inquiry into the inept management of the North Coast Area Health Service,” Mr Provest said.

“Morris Iemma must also order regional health boss and Labor apologist Chris Crawford to step aside because local doctors and the community don’t trust him to tell the truth about our hospitals.”

“Mr Crawford’s response to the crises that affect local patients is to blame everyone except the Labor administration he displays such canine loyalty to, including, lately, ambulance drivers and local doctors.”

“The inquiry will need to focus on what level of funds the NCAS needs to operate, and especially how it allocates resources between different local hospitals.

“The medical professionals at our hospitals are doing an outstanding job despite the neglect of the State Labor Government and the incompetence and arrogance of the leadership of the North Coast Area Health Service.

“The Premier’s pledge of ‘better services, not cuts’ is broken on a daily basis in the Tweed with callous and sneaky attempts to downgrade Murwillumbah Hospital, the cut in coronary care beds at Tweed Hospital and the failure to open the extra general ward beds we have been promised time and time again.”

“Morris Iemma told me in Parliament last week that he would be returning to the Tweed many times because it is a beautiful part of New South Wales.”

“It’s time for him to get on the plane right now,” Mr Provest concluded.

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