

Attn: Mr John Hanscombe
Milton Ulladulla Times

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your recent editorial about CT scanning at Milton Ulladulla Hospital in which you dispute the number of scans done on Hospital patients. The average number of patients transferred to Shoalhaven Hospital for a CT scan over the past two years is five per week. Most of those patients then need to stay or be referred for complex types of care that can only be provided in larger hospitals, in other words would have needed transfer in any case.

I believe that it is incumbent upon you to provide the data upon which you base your assertions.

You mention capital raising but have not considered that major new equipment purchases can also demand new buildings, new staff, new skills, new maintenance schedules, and new upgrade costs in the future – all of which must be funded.

There is not enough demand to justify such a major investment when the funds could be better utilised at Milton. The District cannot in good faith accept funding or donations for equipment that it knows will be underutilised and will come at the expense of services that will provide far greater benefit to the community.

I was particularly disappointed with your highly negative tone and sensationalist language. Accusations of lies and of deliberate obstruction are inaccurate, irresponsible and terribly misleading. They are also highly offensive to the hardworking and dedicated teams at Milton and in the District.

Yours faithfully,

Professor Denis King OAM
Board Chair
Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District