Sydney Local Health District is concerned that there has been a scare campaign in the community regarding public access to Yaralla Estate in Concord.

We would like to dispel some of the myths

ACCESS
- There will be no change to public access to the foreshore walk, the grotto, the rose garden or the sunken garden.
- There will be no change to pedestrian access to Yaralla Estate.
- There will be no change to public access to horses agisted on the estate. Visitors will still be able to pat the horses as they do now.
- Very ill patients with HIV-related dementia will be moved into Yaralla House soon. Signs will be erected asking the public to be respectful of those patients by remaining about 10 metres from the house itself.
- The gates near the house, which are currently locked with a padlock, will be replaced with electronic gates able to be opened remotely allowing paramedics faster access to patients living in the house - but pedestrian access will not change.

USE OF LAND
- Yaralla Estate was not left to the people of Concord.
- It was left to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital by Dame Eadith Walker to be used to aid in the convalescence of very ill patients.
- The Walker Trust states that the estate and its buildings should be used “for the provision of public health services for any person”.
- Yaralla Estate is first and foremost a health facility, which is why we ask you to respect the needs of our patients by remaining about 10 metres from the house.
- Yaralla Estate will not be sold to developers.

SITE MANAGEMENT
- Management of the horse agistment site will go to public tender – as requested by the community. A probity officer and an independent tender review panel member from the Ministry of Health will oversee the process.
- There was no secret deal with the NSW Mounted Police Unit. It was an intergovernmental arrangement where the mandatory requirement for tender did not apply.

Following reports that two horses were found on the helipad at Concord Hospital and a third in a neighbour’s yard, and complaints from Canada Bay Council, Sydney Local Health District conducted an independent audit of the site and found:
- Fencing was not of an acceptable standard;
- Paddock condition was poor;
- Water supply was limited;
- There was evidence of rubbish in the paddocks;
- The site was severely overstocked;
- And the condition of some of the horses was questionable.

A risk assessment by a panel of industry experts then recommended all horses be removed from the site immediately to allow rectification works to be conducted. Sydney Local Health District has a duty of care to ensure the site is safe – but we are also committed to ensuring the estate continues to be used in the way Dame Eadith intended – to aid in the convalescence of very ill patients.