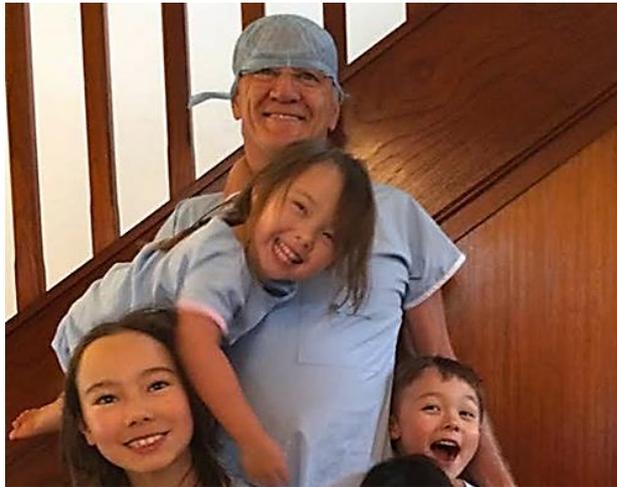


# Dr Stephen Ruff independent voice for North Sydney

THE WEEKLY TIMES June 28, 2016



*North Sydney Independent candidate Dr Stephen Ruff enjoys a break with his family.*

**Poor decision making by the major political parties has inspired a North Sydney surgeon to run as an independent candidate for North Sydney.**

**Royal North Shore Hospital orthopaedic surgeon Dr Stephen Ruff has the backing of North Sydney independent advocate Ted Mack and promotes himself as a true independent candidate who puts North Sydney first.**

“I became involved in politics after observing the attempts of the state Labour and Liberal parties to divest the campus at the Royal North Shore Hospital,” he said.

“A decision that was clearly not in the best long-term interests of our community.

“After community protests, which were sustained over a period of five years, this decision has been reversed.

“Such poor decision making in government extends not only to the health system but also the education system, the management of our economy and defence expenditure.

“It emphasises the importance of community involvement in the political process.”

Dr Ruff believes that the two-party political system as it currently operates in Australia does not ensure that elected members of parliament are free to represent the needs of their communities.

“Policy is determined not at the ballot box, but by internal party politics and influential lobby groups,” he said.

“The individuals that represent our communities are elected by the party preselection process.

“This is a process which increasingly does not occur based on democratic principles.”

The Independent candidate stressed that democracy would benefit greatly from the election of true independents who are free to act on behalf of their electorate in Parliament.

“Free to be advocates for affordable healthcare, affordable education and sustainable economic development,” he said.

“As a nation, we need to embrace the digital age and put in place the infrastructure that will facilitate economic development and innovation in the provision of essential services such as health and education.”

Public service pandering to governments – not people – also needs to change, he said.

“Similarly, government needs to be accountable for its actions and to function in an open and transparent manner.”

“If I’m elected to parliament, my role will be to be an advocate for these principles and to ensure that the unique needs of our community are made clear to the elected government of the day.”

Dr Ruff has been an orthopaedic surgeon at the Royal North Shore Hospital for 30 years, specialising in the treatment of spinal injuries.

Fourteen years ago he established a network of surgeons, based at the RNS Hospital, that has provided orthopaedic and trauma services to Dubbo Base Hospital.

With his wife Cathy he has raised five children, all of whom attended Chatswood high School.

He is actively involved in the upbringing of his ten grandchildren.

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/dr-stephen-ruff-independent-voice-for-north-sydney/>