

# 2000 back widow's call for an inquiry

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A PETITION pushing for a formal investigation into the death of former Port Macquarie man Don Mackay has been sent to NSW Premier Morris Iemma.

Oxley MP Andrew Stoner sent the 2000-signature petition on behalf of Mr Mackay's widow, Therese, after attempting to table it in parliament last week.

"Unfortunately, it was addressed to the Premier rather than the parliament so they were unable to accept it," Mr Stoner said.

"But I have written to the Premier and attached the petition."

Mr Mackay, a quadriplegic, died on May 17 last year after spending five weeks in Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital for a routine lung

drain and biopsy to identify the cause of fluid build-up.

Mrs Mackay claims "unnecessary surgery" contributed to his decline into respiratory arrest and eventually acute respiratory distress syndrome.

The petition calls on Mr Iemma and NSW Health Minister Reba Meagher to hold a full, independent and open investigation into the surgery, treatment, care and subsequent death of the 56-year-old.

Mr Stoner has moved a motion in parliament urging the Premier to respond to Mrs Mackay's claims.



Therese Mackay

His motion condemns the "government's cover-up" in relation to Mr Mackay's death.

Mrs Mackay has obtained her husband's hospital records, lodged a complaint with the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission, given evidence at a parliamentary inquiry into Royal North Shore Hospital and a special commission of inquiry into the state's hospital system during a recent Port Macquarie hearing.

Mr Stoner said he hoped his motion would be debated later this year.

"In the meantime, I've asked for the Premier to respond and hope that would occur within six weeks," he said.

Hastings

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**Petition handover:** Member for Oxley and NSW National Party leader, Andrew Stoner, accepts a 2000-strong petition from Therese Mackay last Friday. The petition was generated by the Mackay family and calls for an independent investigation into the treatment and subsequent death of Don Mackay in April and May 2007.