Labor **MEDIA RELEASE**

WALT SECORD MLC

NSW SHADOW TREASURER

NSW SHADOW ARTS MINISTER

BEREJIKLIAN: SACK HARWIN FOR DEFYING HER AND DEPUTY PREMIER ON CALLS TO AVOID HOLIDAYING OUTSIDE SYDNEY

NSW Labor has demanded NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian sack NSW Upper House leader and Arts Minister Don Harwin for defying her and the Deputy Premier John Barilaro's repeated calls on Sydneysiders to remain here over Easter to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

Last night, it was revealed that Mr Harwin moved from luxury Elizabeth Bay apartment to his $1.3 million Central Coast holiday home – against the direct instructions of Ms Berejiklian and Mr Barilaro. They both warned Sydneysiders to stay in Sydney to avoid spreading COVID-19 to save lives.

https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/coronavirus/senior-nsw-minister-don-harwin-busted-at-his-holiday-house/news-story/f01dff692600284c00629261d1fe1b31

"In New Zealand, the Prime Minister demoted her health minister for doing the same thing and in Scotland, the chief medical officer lost her job. Put simply, Mr Harwin must go," Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Arts Minister Walt Secord said.

"Mr Harwin has completely ignored health officials and the Deputy Premier who demanded we all stay away in Sydney.

We are all in this together and we have to stick to the strict rules to protect the community.

"Social distancing is about saving laws. But Mr Harwin is not above the law.

"Flippant decisions can be deadly for an elderly person in several days.

"The Premier must act; remove this minister and make a clear example out of him."

Mr Secord pointed to:

• On April 7, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern who demoted her Health Minister Dr David Clark for going to the beach 20 kilometres away from his home against lock-down laws; and

• On April 6, Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon sacked the chief health officer Dr Catherine Calderwood for defying national lock-down rules by visiting her second holiday home.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/07/new-zealand-health-minister-demoted-after-beach-visit-broke-lockdown-rules

https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52177171

Earlier this week, Deputy Premier John Barilaro led pleas for Sydneysiders to stay away from areas outside Sydney to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

Last night, Mr Barilaro told New Corp: "the rules apply to everyone, politicians aren't exempt – we need to set the standard and I'm bloody disappointed."

Mr Barilaro said: "Everyone could go to their holiday home – we are asking people not to. This sets a bad example."

DATE: 9/04/2020