



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday, 2 December 2013

#### **NSW GOVERNMENT COMMITS \$1.8 MILLION TO PLAN REDEVELOPMENT OF GOSFORD AND WYONG HOSPITALS**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today announced \$1.8 million to progress planning for the redevelopment of Gosford Hospital and Wyong Hospital.

Mrs Skinner was joined by Minister for the Central Coast and Terrigal MP Chris Hartcher and local MPs Chris Holstein (Gosford), Darren Webber (Wyong) and Chris Spence (The Entrance) to make the announcement at Wyong Hospital today.

“Today the NSW Government is taking the first step in redeveloping both Gosford and Wyong hospitals,” Mrs Skinner said.

“This funding will progress planning to upgrade both facilities to ensure they meet the health needs of the growing Central Coast community well into the future.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals is committed to ensuring patients on the Central Coast are able to access quality care, closer to home. Planning for future health services will ensure this commitment is a reality.”

The NSW Government has committed \$800,000 to progress the planning to upgrade Wyong Hospital and \$1 million for planning further redevelopments at Gosford Hospital.

The planning process will involve consultation with local staff, clinicians and management to identify the key clinical priorities.

The redevelopment of Wyong Hospital will prioritise a new emergency department, increased operating theatre and ICU/HDU capacity, mental health expansion, additional inpatient beds for medical and acute services, clinical and non-clinical support, services and car parking.

The redevelopment of Gosford Hospital will prioritise a new emergency department, ICU/HDU expansion, enhanced operating theatre capacity, maternity services and significant additional inpatient beds for medical, acute and sub-acute services. It will also include clinical and non-clinical support, services and car parking.

“By committing planning money to these two hospitals, the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government is demonstrating its determination to undo 16 years of Labor neglect,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Our Government is committed to rebuilding and redeveloping our hospitals, to ensure they meet the high standards of care which are delivered by our hard-working staff.”

Minister Hartcher said he is proud to be part of a government that is delivering better health care for Central Coast communities.

“Investment in health on the Central Coast is welcome and much-needed and it is great to see planning being undertaken to ensure our communities have the best access to care and treatments well into the future,” Mr Hartcher said.

Mr Holstein said: “This is a momentous day for the people of Gosford and the dedicated staff at the hospital. This planning will ensure our community’s health is in safe hands for decades to come.”

Mr Webber said: “I know the community joins me in my excitement to see this commitment made to Wyong Hospital. We’re already seeing upgrades in the form of the Urgent Care Centre and Short Stay Unit and now we’re looking to the future of health care for the area.”

Mr Spence said: “Unlike Labor, this government is getting on with the job of planning for the future of this state. This is a big day for the Central Coast.”

The Central Coast Local Health District Board will determine details of the development based on future clinical needs of Wyong and Gosford hospitals following advice from local consultation.

Planning will commence in early 2014 and it is anticipated that the first stage of planning will be finalised by late 2014.

While visiting Wyong Hospital, Minister Skinner also announced the start of works on the facility’s new \$6.2 million Urgent Care Centre and Short Stay Unit.

“It is projects like these which are enhancing the way our hospitals deliver timely, quality care and these additions to Wyong Hospital will free up emergency department staff and beds for those patients with serious, life-threatening conditions,” Mrs Skinner said.

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