



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 13 March 2014

NSW HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE CONTINUES TO HIT RECORD HIGHS

Quality care is being delivered to patients across NSW quicker than ever before, Health Minister Jillian Skinner said today.

Mrs Skinner said the release of the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) quarterly report (October-December 2013) shows hospital performance has improved to record levels.

"I am delighted that elective surgery is being provided in our hospitals to meet the growing needs of our population and more patients are receiving their elective surgery on time," Mrs Skinner said.

"Under the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government, we have seen robust and consistent improvements in NSW elective surgery waiting times," she said.

Elective surgery category	Under Labor (Oct-Dec 2010)	Under Liberals & Nationals (Oct-Dec 2013)
Urgent (30 days)	93% on time	99% on time
Semi-urgent (90 days)	91% on time	97% on time
Non-urgent (365 days)	91% on time	95% on time

Table data sourced from Bureau of Health Information Quarterly Reports

The BHI report also shows NSW hospitals have achieved the highest percentage of patients treated and leaving the emergency department within four hours than at any previous time.

"This boost in performance came despite there being 14,600 additional emergency department presentations than in the comparative quarter last year," Mrs Skinner said.

"This is an incredible achievement by hard working staff in our hospitals across the state," she said.

The BHI report shows hospitals are beginning treatment quicker across all urgency categories, despite a 3% growth in patient demand.

Emergency department: median time to start treatment	Under Labor (Oct-Dec 2010)	Under Liberals & Nationals (Oct-Dec 2013)
Non-urgent	32 minutes	25 minutes
Semi-urgent	34 minutes	27 minutes
Urgent	23 minutes	20 minutes
Emergency	8 minutes	8 minutes

Table data sourced from Bureau of Health Information Quarterly Reports

Average time required to transfer patients' care from ambulance to emergency department has improved by 4% on the previous quarter, with 87% of patients now being transferred within 30 minutes. This result was achieved despite a 5% increase in ambulance arrivals.

"Whilst there is always room for further improvement, this recent trend is very encouraging," Mrs Skinner said.

"What we are seeing is an increase in activity for our public hospitals coupled with improved performance in many areas.

"I'd like to thank the staff who continue to work so hard to develop and implement local initiatives to improve the patient journey through our health system," she said.

The NSW Government's 2013/14 health budget is a record \$17.9 billion - up 5.2%. This increase will provide for an extra 69,000 emergency department attendances, an additional 34,000 hospital admissions and elective surgery for an extra 3000 patients.

Additionally, the NSW Government committed nearly \$5 billion in its first four-year term to rebuilding hospitals across the state which suffered under 16 years of Labor neglect.

"The results reported by the BHI today reflect our Government's record investment in health, which includes employing an extra 4100 nurses (2800 FTE) and an extra 1400 doctors (FTE) since our election in March 2011," Mrs Skinner said.

"Our investment in both staff and infrastructure is ensuring we can provide top-quality care to more patients, faster than ever before."