



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday 4 April 2014

#### **NEW EQUIPMENT TO BENEFIT BABIES AT MANNING HOSPITAL**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Myall Lakes Stephen Bromhead today unveiled new equipment for the Manning Hospital maternity unit.

Humpty Dumpty Foundation Chairman Paul Francis also attended the launch of a resuscitation cot and two cardio-respiratory monitors.

Mrs Skinner said she was pleased to be able to purchase the equipment from the Humpty Dumpty Foundation as it will provide invaluable, specialised care for the hospital's smallest patients.

"Manning Hospital plays a vital role in the care of newborns and it is with great pleasure that I am able to assist in providing this equipment for the benefit of staff and patients," Mrs Skinner said.

"Manning Hospital is the primary facility for maternity services and special care treatment for newborns in the Lower Mid-North Coast.

"The hard work and dedication of staff in the maternity ward is to be commended and I'm proud they now have the support of first-class equipment to deliver their first-class care."

The resuscitation cot, valued at more than \$22,000, has an inbuilt oxygen outlet so a baby can be resuscitated immediately should it stop breathing.

The cardio-respiratory monitors, valued at almost \$20,000 each, will assist in monitoring heart and respiratory rates as well as oxygen levels and blood pressure in young babies.

Mr Bromhead, whose three daughters were born at Manning Hospital, said the equipment is particularly important for babies whose health deteriorates rapidly.

"This equipment is able to give staff an immediate signal if a baby needs assistance and closer care," Mr Bromhead said.

"I know these additions to the maternity unit will be greatly appreciated by local parents as well as staff.

"I thank the Minister for being here today and her support in providing this equipment to our hospital. I know it will make a difference to the care of babies here at Taree.

"We are extremely thankful for the support of the Humpty Dumpty Foundation - their contributions have provided the very best equipment for the children and young people of this region," Mr Bromhead said.

Mr Francis said it is vital children and medical staff have the life-saving equipment they need to provide the best possible outcomes.

"The Humpty Dumpty Foundation has now donated 16 pieces of equipment to Manning Hospital, benefitting various areas of care including maternity, special care, paediatrics and the emergency department."

During the visit, Mrs Skinner also toured Manning Hospital and met with staff to discuss future plans for the facility.