MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT PROVIDES WELCOME BOOST TO ABORIGINAL DENTAL SERVICES IN SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY

Minister for Mental Health and Assistant Minister for Health Jai Rowell recently highlighted the NSW Government’s commitment to improving dental health outcomes for Aboriginal people with the opening of a new dental clinic at Tharawal Aboriginal Medical Service in Airds.

Visiting the facility with Liberal candidate for Macquarie Fields Pat Farmer, Mr Rowell said $302,300 in NSW Government funding provided to the clinic this financial year had helped ensure local Aboriginal people receive vital dental health services.

“The new clinic will help close the dental health gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the South Western Sydney area and comes as part of a state-wide commitment from the NSW Government of $5.54 million this financial year alone to improving access to oral health care for Aboriginal people,” Mr Rowell said.

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have higher oral health needs in all age groups than non-indigenous Australians. This is compounded for those with diabetes and other chronic disease linked with a higher prevalence of periodontal diseases.

Mr Rowell said the NSW Government was keenly focussed on improving the dental health to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, having recently launched a plan aimed at further improving dental health care service delivery to indigenous people across NSW.

“The NSW Government has developed the Aboriginal Oral Health Plan 2014-2020 through discussions with key stakeholders and partnerships between Aboriginal health services and Local Health Districts across the State to harness local knowledge and expertise.

“The Plan describes the strategic actions NSW Health will take to improve the oral health status of Aboriginal individuals, families and communities in NSW. This includes improving the oral health of the NSW Aboriginal population through primary prevention.”

Mr Rowell said the strategies would be implemented through greater cooperation between a range of health stakeholders.

“In South Western Sydney, Tharawal Aboriginal Medical Service and the South Western Sydney Local Health District are already working together to provide a care pathway for children in need of advanced paediatric dental care within their local area,” Mr Rowell said.