



**Jillian Skinner**  
Minister for Health

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday, 2 August 2016

### **BANKSTOWN-LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL INTERIM REPORT**

The state's Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant, today handed down the interim report into the medical gas error at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital which led to the death of a newborn boy and caused serious harm to a newborn girl.

"I deeply regret the profound suffering caused to two families through such a devastating error. I have personally apologised to each family and promised our full support, as well as compensation," Health Minister Jillian Skinner said.

"It is my strong belief that BOC Limited, which installed and certified the medical gas outlet, and Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital, which was required under Australian standards to check it, will share responsibility for this tragedy.

"To date, a hospital engineer involved in the commissioning of the gas outlets in the Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital operating theatres has been stood down.

"A number of investigations are underway, including the investigation being led by Professor Michael Nicholl and the coronial investigation into the death of the baby boy on July 13.

These investigations will help identify whether other hospital managers or staff contributed to this tragedy - and, if so, they will be held to account.

"Additionally, NSW Health has ceased using BOC for installation, commissioning and testing works at all NSW hospitals - including cancelling orders and requesting BOC hand over work already underway - pending the results of these investigations."

Other steps taken since the error was confirmed on July 21 include:

- Every medical gas outlet installed in a NSW Health facility in the last five years is being checked to ensure the correct gas is being emitted.
- This state-wide audit of gas emissions has been extended to every medical gas outlet in NSW, irrespective of when it was installed.
- Any future upgrade to medical gas outlets in a NSW public hospital will be required to undergo independent verification.

Professor Nicholl, the clinical director of the Women, Children and Family Health at Northern Sydney Local Health District, is leading an investigation team with expertise in a range of medical and engineering specialties. He is due to report by August 25.