



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday 20 August 2014

#### **NEW HEALTH SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR LOCKHART**

Lockhart's new \$8 million Multi Purpose Service (MPS) was officially opened today by Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire during a two-day trip to the Riverina.

Mrs Skinner said the new health facility offers a range of services including emergency care, allied health, aged care and community health under the one roof.

"The Lockhart MPS will change the way health services are delivered to the community and will significantly improve access to integrated care for local residents," Mrs Skinner said.

"This MPS will act as a coordination point for the community in relation to a range of health, community and aged care services.

"Multi Purpose Services are much loved by their communities because of their tailored approach to delivering the specific care local residents need.

"The MPS will provide the Lockhart community with a fully integrated 'one-stop shop' where residents can access a complete range of community health services, from preventive health care to acute services.

"The NSW Government committed the full \$8 million to build this MPS, demonstrating our commitment to enhancing health care for rural communities."

Mr Maguire acknowledged the support of the Medical Staff Council, the local community and many volunteers who have helped to make the project a reality.

"This project has been a labour of love for all involved and I'm incredibly pleased to see the hard work has paid off," Mr Maguire said.

"I particularly thank all Lockhart MPS staff for their efforts in the transition to the new building.

"The Lockhart MPS is a fantastic facility and I have no doubt it will provide comprehensive care and comfort for patients and their loved ones. This will be a hub for high-quality, flexible health services which will meet the changing needs of our community."

The refurbished facility includes:

- Ensuites for all bedrooms;
- Five additional residential aged care beds;

- Acute services, including an emergency department;
- Medical imaging, physiotherapy, community nursing, child and family nursing and consultation;
- Rooms for both private and visiting health services;
- New lounge/dining room;
- Home-like interiors, external gardens and walking paths;
- A link between the hospital and Woodhaven Hostel;
- Covered and screened outdoor seating room;
- Staff accommodation;
- New entry lobby, waiting room and reception area;
- Upgraded nurses station, new offices and meeting rooms.

Additional staff have been appointed, including Registered Nurses and Assistants in Nursing, as well as an Allied Health Assistant to provide leisure and lifestyle activities.