



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW EQUIPMENT TO AID MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

Mental health patients at Sutherland and St George hospitals will benefit from new sensory modulation equipment to assist their recovery, the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, announced today.

The equipment includes lights, music relaxation items, exercise bikes and Nintendo Wiis for exercise and activity, and is now in use at Sutherland and St George hospitals.

Mrs Skinner said that the aim of the sensory modulation room was to help patients to develop skills which will assist in the prevention of aggressive behaviour.

“The sensory room will aim to provide a positive, warm, calming and recovery-oriented therapeutic environment for mental health patients undergoing treatment,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Sensory modulation has been demonstrated to be effective in assisting mental health patients to manage their distress when combined with clinical treatment.

“The introduction of the sensory room with specialised equipment is also a boost for the dedicated mental health staff who provide advanced care to patients,” she said.

Minister Skinner toured Sutherland Hospital today, along with Member for Miranda, Graham Annesley, the Member for Cronulla, Mark Speakman, and the Member for Heathcote, Lee Evans.

“The sensory room is a quiet, safe, and respectful place of retreat that supports mental health patients and staff who are providing care,” Mr Annesley said.

“These additional resources mean improved mental health services can be provided locally, which is a good outcome for patients and their families,” Mr Speakman said.

“Today was a great opportunity to meet the devoted staff and to see the sensory modulation room in action,” Mr Evans said.