



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW DIALYSIS UNIT A WIN FOR INNER WEST

People with advanced kidney disease living in Sydney's inner west will now be able to receive their haemodialysis closer to home, thanks to a new \$1.6 million renal dialysis unit at Concord Repatriation General Hospital.

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, today officially opened the unit, which is expected to provide more than 8,700 dialysis treatments a year to 56 outpatients.

Mrs Skinner said that many patients using the new facility formerly had to travel to RPA, while patients previously treated as inpatients could now be seen as outpatients, helping to deliver on the NSW Government's commitment to relieve the burden on hospitals by reducing unnecessary hospitalisations.

"We committed to providing improved facilities and equipment, and helping people avoid unnecessary stays in hospital," Mrs Skinner said.

"The need for dialysis in the community is increasing, and as a major hospital with a large population catchment area, this new unit at Concord hospital is at the forefront of delivering outstanding care," she said.

The Member for Drummoyne, John Sidoti, said that there was a growing number of people in the area with kidney disease who required regular dialysis.

"Having a state-of-the art unit closer to home is going to be so much more convenient for people in our community who need dialysis," Mr Sidoti said.

"The new unit will lead to enhanced, co-ordinated renal care for patients," he said.

The Member for Strathfield, Charles Casuscelli, said that the purpose-built unit was staffed by a multi-disciplinary team and fitted with the most sophisticated equipment available.

"This much-needed extension of dialysis services in our area will allow us to better deliver the care needed to this group of patients, with the aim of improving their quality of life," Mr Casuscelli said.