



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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WORKS TO START ON REFURBISHMENT OF GUNNEDAH HOSPITAL ED

The \$300,000 refurbishment of Gunnedah District Hospital's Emergency Department and waiting room will start this week, designed to improve the comfort, care, security and privacy of patients, the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner and the Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson, said today.

Works are due to start tomorrow and expected to finish by the end of June this year.

"This is about helping the hospital's hardworking staff continue to provide excellent service in an improved, modern and functional environment which will greatly benefit patients," Minister Skinner said.

Mr Anderson said he was delighted that the Gunnedah region will soon benefit from more improved health services locally.

"It's extremely positive to see works getting underway on this important project for the Gunnedah community and surrounding region," Mr Anderson said.

"It's fantastic that we have the opportunity to create a more functional and comfortable Emergency Department for our patients and our dedicated staff," he said.

The refurbishment of the Gunnedah Hospital Emergency Department will benefit the community by:

- Improving seating in the ED waiting room;
- Redesigning the nurse triage area to provide increased privacy;
- Fitting the public toilets located in the ED with emergency call buttons;
- Ensuring all waiting patients will be visible to the triage nurse;
- Including a special consultation room, which will provide privacy and dignity for patients. This room will also help improve comfort and care of women who may be experiencing problems in early pregnancy;
- Incorporating telehealth facilities into the ED, and
- Improving security for patients and staff.

From tomorrow, the Emergency Department (ED) will move to a temporary location in Wards 1 and 2 in the General Ward.

Patients will need to access the temporary ED via the glass doors at the Reservoir St entrance. The hospital will be well signposted to ensure patients, visitors and ambulances know where to go.

New car parking has been provided in this area to accommodate patients presenting to the Emergency Department. Temporary signposting will direct patients.

There will be no ED access via Anzac Parade, however, the x-ray department will still be accessible from Anzac Parade.