



# The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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21 March, 2012

## **BETTER CANCER CARE FOR SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY**

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, today officially opened a new chemotherapy day centre, part of a \$390 million redevelopment of Liverpool Hospital to improve services in south-western Sydney.

“Over the next 10 years the number of new cancer cases in south-western Sydney is projected to increase by almost 25 per cent in line with population growth, making services like this vital,” Minister Skinner said.

“The NSW Government is committed to improving health outcomes in western and south-western Sydney, so today I am pleased to announce the new expanded Chemotherapy Day Centre now includes an additional nine chemotherapy chairs, taking the total number of chairs to 21.

“The radiation bed bay unit has also increased to two chairs and five beds allowing for additional patients to receive extra radiotherapy treatments at the unit,” she said.

The director of South Western Sydney Local Health District cancer services, Professor Geoff Delaney, said the upgraded centre would provide modern expanded services.

“More than 2,500 new cancer patients per year currently attend outpatient clinics within the Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre, 8000 chemotherapy and other intravenous therapies are administered per year and about 12,000 radiation therapy treatments are provided per year,” Professor Delaney said.

“The expansion includes a redesign of our waiting areas, an increase in the number of chemotherapy chairs and a redevelopment of the clinical area in medical and radiation oncology treatment areas. The redesign was undertaken in consultation with patients and families to ensure we consider the experience from their perspective,” he said.

The Member for Menai, Melanie Gibbons, welcomed the expanded centre, which offers radiation and medical oncology, haematological oncology, gynaecological oncology, head and neck surgery, genetics, breast surgery, urological surgery, palliative care and allied health.

“This expansion allows the people of south-western Sydney to receive treatment closer to home, and I thank the Minister for making this possible,” she said.