



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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SKINNER HALTS LABOR'S MENTAL HEALTH SELL-OFF

The NSW Government has issued a moratorium on the sale of Chatswood properties that had been used for community mental health care, the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, announced today at a community mental health forum.

Four properties which comprise part of the Hercules Street site will be retained for mental health services in keeping with a campaign conducted by Mrs Skinner and Willoughby MP Gladys Berejiklian over many years.

"This is a big win for mental health patients in the district," Mrs Skinner said.

"There is a growing demand for mental health services in the community, and I am delighted to be able to keep a commitment I made to people living with mental illness, their families and carers and the health professionals who campaigned on their behalf.

"Mental health teams will continue to make the new community health building in St Leonards their head office, but the retention of these facilities, and the renovated centre due to reopen in Cremorne within weeks, will enable them to provide appropriate community based outreach services," she said.

"The Northern Sydney Local Health District will now work with community mental health services to develop a plan on the best way to use the buildings."

Ms Berejiklian welcomed the decision as a win for the community and another example of the NSW Government delivering on its election commitments.

"We listened to the community; we made a promise; and we're now delivering on that commitment," Ms Berejiklian said.

"We have long advocated that the Hercules St site should be retained for community health, and that is what will happen," she said.