



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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ARMIDALE HOSPITAL TENDERS CALLED

Tenders are being called for the construction of Armidale Hospital's new \$5.9 million combined ambulatory care and chemotherapy building, the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, announced today, during a debate in NSW Parliament.

Construction is expected to begin in June 2012, and the new building will provide state-of-the-art facilities and more space for a range of services including:

- Ambulatory care services, such as specialist consulting rooms for surgeons, anaesthetists, renal physicians and obstetrics and gynaecology;
- Chronic disease services, including cardiac and respiratory services; and
- Chemotherapy.

Minister Skinner said that the new building would co-locate staff and services in a modern environment.

“Over the years, the hardworking staff have been treating a growing number of patients from out-dated facilities,” Minister Skinner said.

“For instance, cancer staff provide an excellent service, but simply cannot fit any more chemotherapy chairs into the existing cancer clinic room.

“The new building will provide larger, purpose built spaces and bring all outpatient clinics together under one roof, so patients only have to come to one place on the campus for all outpatient appointments.”

The funding for the enhanced chemotherapy unit will also provide for two more treatment chairs, taking the total number of chairs at Armidale Hospital from four chairs to six in 2013.

“From next year, there will be greater capacity to treat cancer patients in Armidale. Cancer patients from the area will also have better access to radiotherapy treatment closer to home, once construction on the North West Cancer Centre, at Tamworth Hospital is complete at the end of 2012.”

The new three-storey building will be directly linked by corridors to Armidale Hospital and Armidale Community Health and be completed by mid-2013.

The ambulatory care building on the Armidale Hospital campus has been funded by \$5 million from the NSW Government. The remaining \$985,000 for the enhanced chemotherapy unit was made available as part of \$31.6 million provided to HNE Health through the Federal Government's Health and Hospitals Fund, for the development of cancer services in Tamworth and Armidale.