



# **The Hon Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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7 May, 2012

#### **A NEW CHAPTER IN THE GRAYTHWAITE STORY**

The NSW Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, and Member for Ryde, Victor Dominello, today announced that construction is ready to start on the Graythwaite Rehabilitation Centre at Ryde Hospital.

Richard Crookes Constructions has been awarded the \$41 million tender to build the new facility.

Minister Skinner said demolition works are finished and the site is ready for the major build.

“The 64-bed in-patient facility will provide high level rehabilitation services including a hydrotherapy pool and outdoor therapy spaces,” Minister Skinner said.

“Also included will be underground parking and a patient link to Ryde Hospital for direct access to diagnostics, pathology, pharmacy and the emergency department,” she said.

Early works on the site are complete, including relocation of the library to a refurbished first floor of Ryde Hospital. The family accommodation previously provided in Rotary Lodge is now located in the renovated ‘Matron’s Flat’.

The Member for Ryde, Victor Dominello, welcomed the news of the tender award and the start of construction.

“Having the Graythwaite Rehabilitation Centre at Ryde Hospital is a great win for the local community and for rehabilitation patients and Ryde Hospital staff,” he said.

“The Rehabilitation Centre is expected to open in the second half of 2013, and will feature improved car parking in and around the hospital,” he said.

The original Graythwaite and the land on which it stands at McMahons Point was given to the Crown in 1915 by Thomas Dibbs for use as a convalescent home for injured soldiers and sailors. Later he asked that it be used as a convalescent home for elderly people.

The Graythwaite property was sold several years ago and funds from that sale are now being used to build the new facility. The first home’s history will be highlighted as part of the new construction.