



# **The Hon Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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7 June, 2012

#### **GOVERNMENT FUNDS HISTORIC PRIVATE SECTOR CLINICAL SCHOOL**

The Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, today committed \$10 million in state government funding towards a private sector clinical school to be built at Sydney Adventist Hospital (SAH).

The new Health Workforce Education Centre (HWEC) – a collaborative project between the Commonwealth and NSW Governments and the SAH – is a first of its kind.

“This is a truly exciting project that will provide a unique opportunity for doctors, nurses and other health professionals to train side by side,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The clinical school will provide a better understanding between practitioners of each other’s roles – understanding that will translate to better patient care.”

Mrs Skinner described the project as a “significant milestone” in the provision of health workforce training in Australia.

“The private sector had been under-utilised for training of health professionals,” she said.

Mrs Skinner joined Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek and SAH Chief Executive Officer Dr Leon Clark today in adding her signature to a Memorandum of Understanding that will underpin the project.

Once completed in 2013, the Education Centre will provide multi-disciplinary training and clinical opportunities for a number of health professionals for undergraduate, post-graduate, registrar, fellowship and continuing professional education.

Mrs Skinner said she was pleased to announce that the funding will also support the training of 60 interns during the next decade.

“Increasing the numbers of doctors, nurses and other health professionals will assist us greatly as we strive to cope with a continuing health workforce shortage,” she said.

As part of the project, the SAH will also take on a new role providing hospital-in-the-home and hospital-in-the-nursing-home services to patients in their region to enhance the ability of patients to receive better, out-of-hospital care.

“This project is a demonstration of the new partnerships between the private and government sectors that the O’Farrell Government is creating - partnership aimed at delivering better health services and better health outcomes for patients,” Mrs Skinner said.

“I congratulate all those involved in this visionary project that will both contribute to our future health workforce and provide quality health care outside traditional hospital settings.”