



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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GETTING ON WITH THE JOB AT ST GEORGE HOSPITAL

The Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, and the Member for Oatley, Mark Coure, today announced that tenders have been awarded for both the new \$8 million specialist mental health unit and for the commencement of construction for the new emergency department at St George Hospital.

Minister Skinner said that construction has started this week on the essential early works component of the new emergency department.

“The emergency department will be constructed in a new purpose-built building and will have expanded treatment areas which will improve patient care and efficiency,” Mrs Skinner said.

“This redevelopment will meet the future needs of patients by delivering expanded services for the current population of the local area, and beyond,” she said.

Mr Coure said that St George Hospital’s emergency department has seen an increased number of patients in recent years, which has been generated by population growth, an ageing population and major trauma presentations.

“The new emergency department will be a significant boost for St George Hospital, which has one of the busiest emergency departments in NSW, seeing more than 62,900 patients and admitting around 22,000 patients each year,” Mr Coure said.

The Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, said older people with a mental illness are some of the most vulnerable in our community.

“This new, specialised facility is another significant improvement for people with mental illness and will further complement existing mental health services throughout the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District,” Mr Humphries said.

“Integrated care with a seamless transition from hospital-based services to the community will be provided to older people who have mental health conditions,” he said.

Mr Coure said that the new mental health unit would provide the St George area with a highly specialised unit, which is good news for carers and family members who have a loved one with mental health issues.

Sydney based construction company, Lahey Constructions, will build the facilities.

Background

NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

The new Emergency Department will deliver:

- Five resuscitation bays
- 14 paediatric treatment spaces (including Fast Track zone)
- Adult fast track zone
- 34-bed adult acute treatment area
- 12-bed Emergency Medical Unit for short stay admissions
- New six-bed Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre
- Two safety assessment rooms
- Possible satellite imaging (X-Ray, CT scanner)
- Eight space off-street ambulance drop off zone

Potential for up to six additional floors for future projects.

The completion of early works is expected by the end of 2012. Construction of the main Emergency Department building will commence in early 2013, with completion expected in time for the unit to be occupied before the winter of 2014.

NEW SPECIALIST MENTAL HEALTH UNIT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

In what is a first for South Eastern Sydney, the 16-bed Mental Health Unit for older people will provide assessment and recovery based treatment for people aged 65 years and older requiring sub-acute mental health care.

The specialised unit will be built alongside the existing adult mental health acute inpatient unit and will share reception and waiting room facilities.

The new purpose built facility will provide 16 inpatient beds, including one bariatric bed, an activity room, lounge and dining rooms and secure courtyards for outdoor therapy. Ancillary accommodation includes consultation rooms, meeting rooms and staff offices.

Construction is expected to begin in mid-2012 and the project should be completed in late 2013.