



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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WORK SET TO START ON ARMIDALE CANCER AND AMBULATORY CARE SERVICES

NSW Health Minister, Jillian Skinner, today inspected the site where work is set to commence on the new Ambulatory Care and Chemotherapy Building at Armidale.

Mrs Skinner, who was joined by the Member for Northern Tablelands, Richard Torbay, and Scot MacDonald MLC, at Armidale Hospital, said the \$6.3 million facility will ensure patients have easy access to more streamlined health services in one location.

“The NSW Government is committed to ensuring health services in this State meet the needs of our growing regional communities and today is an important day for the future of cancer and ambulatory care services in this region,” Mrs Skinner said.

Mrs Skinner said the new facility, to be built on the Rusden St side of the hospital grounds, will provide a range of services to meet local demand.

These will include ambulatory care services, such as specialist consulting rooms for surgeons, anaesthetists, renal physicians and obstetrics and gynaecology; and chronic disease services, including dietician services; and chemotherapy

“This new facility will greatly enhance Armidale Hospital’s capacity to treat cancer patients from Armidale and neighbouring districts,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Once the building is finished, the new chemotherapy unit will not only provide more space for the cancer service, it will also fund two more chemotherapy treatment chairs, taking the total number of cancer treatment places at Armidale Hospital from four to six in 2013.”

Mr Torbay said ambulatory care services such as community dietician services, will also be enhanced with a move into the new building.

“Patients will be able to easily access these updated services in the building which will provide more effective, streamlined services to the community in a purpose-built, dedicated department,” Mr Torbay said.

“I welcome the NSW Government’s commitment to regional health services, and know that the local community will see real benefits from the soon-to-start construction.”

Mrs Skinner said the NSW Government has committed \$5 million for the new ambulatory care facility, and the new chemotherapy unit is supported by funding of \$1.3 million from the Australian Government under the Regional Cancer Centres Initiative through the Health and Hospitals Fund Program.