



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday, 3 September 2012

#### **NEW MRI SUITE FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT WESTMEAD**

The NSW Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, and the Member for Parramatta, Geoff Lee, today joined the Federal Minister for Health, Tanya Plibersek, at the unveiling of a new MRI suite at The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

The new state-of-the-art suite was made possible through a \$5 million investment by the Commonwealth Government.

"The Children's Hospital at Westmead is a leader in paediatric care, not just in NSW but across Australia.

"It's wonderful to be here today to see the vital services provided by this facility enhanced with the addition of the new MRI suite. This is a positive step for NSW patients and their families," Mrs Skinner said.

Mrs Skinner said the NSW Government is supporting the operating costs of the services provided by the new MRI suite at the Children's Hospital.

"This MRI suite will be used in conjunction with the Hospital's existing MRI suite which will see reduced waiting times for important diagnoses.

"In addition to the scanning facilities and control room, both of the Hospital's MRI suites include an anaesthetic room, recovery areas, reporting rooms as well as a waiting room and reception.

Dr Lee said the well-being of young patients was a key focus of the MRI suite.

"This new MRI service will provide improved access for young patients to contemporary imaging technology while also looking after their well-being and comfort," Dr Lee said.

The Children's Hospital at Westmead currently conducts more than 4000 MRI scans per year. MRI scanning is an essential tool in paediatric care as unlike CT scanning and x-rays, it does not use radiation.

"The Commonwealth Government's funding complements the NSW Government's commitment to boosting paediatric services for the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network.

"This includes \$1.4 million to enhance paediatric intensive care services to improve critical care for children," Mrs Skinner said.

The new MRI suite is expected to be operational by October 2012.