



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **NEW ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL NO LONGER A CONSTRUCTION SITE**

Royal North Shore's new main hospital building has reached an important milestone with the issuing of a certificate of occupancy heralding the imminent opening of its impressive front doors to patients.

"With staff due to begin occupying the new Acute Services Building within weeks, this is wonderful news for the people of the North Shore and the wider NSW community for whom this hospital has long held a special place," said the NSW Health Minister, Jillian Skinner.

"Issuing the certificate of occupancy is a contractual milestone that formally declassifies most of the project from a construction site to an occupiable building," Mrs Skinner said.

"This means that finally this incredible building can begin doing what it was designed to do, provide a modern and welcoming space from which the staff of Royal North Shore can continue to deliver world class health care to its patients.

"I have been fortunate to have toured the building a number of times and I'm really excited for patients and visitors who will soon see it for the first time," the Minister said.

The new main hospital building is part of a \$1.127 billion project that consolidates 53 outdated buildings on the St Leonards campus into new purpose-built facilities that can expand to meet future health care needs.

It has been delivered on time and on budget for Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) under a Health Infrastructure Public Private Partnership which includes partners InfraShore and Thiess.

Adjunct Associate Professor Vicki Taylor, the Chief Executive of NSLHD, said staff of Royal North Shore had been able to inspect their new work spaces and were looking forward to moving in next month.

"As with any move of this magnitude, there has been a lot to do but I'm confident that the rigorous work done on clinical transition and change management planning means this will go smoothly.

"The removalists are booked, checklists are being ticked off, and we're now raring to go," Prof Taylor said.

The Acute Services Building includes:

- Inpatient wards for medical and surgical patients with a combination of one-bed and four-bed rooms

- An outpatient (ambulatory care) centre
- A new cancer care centre
- Additional renal dialysis chairs
- Enhanced diagnostic services and new clinical and information technology services
- 18 new operating theatres
- An intensive care unit with capacity for 58 beds
- Retail and dining areas for staff and patients
- Automated guided vehicles to transport food, linen and waste around the hospital
- A helipad
- Car park with 350 extra parking spaces and new roads and landscaping.

The final stage of the project is a new Clinical Services Building, scheduled for completion in 2014, which will contain a new burns unit, women's and children's health and mental health units.

The move into the Acute Services Building is scheduled to begin on Monday, 15 October and the building will be fully operational by Friday, 7 December.