



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **DA VINCI ROBOT LANDS AT NEPEAN HOSPITAL**

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, today unveiled a new surgical robot at Nepean Hospital – the first of its kind in a NSW public hospital.

The \$4 million state-of-the-art da Vinci robot will allow surgeons to provide treatment for prostate cancer as well as other complex surgeries through keyhole incisions.

“Robotic-assisted surgery is the next phase in the evolution of healthcare and I am delighted that it will improve clinical care for those public patients requiring surgery,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Nepean Hospital will provide a state-wide robotic surgical service, which will make a real difference to patients, not only in Western Sydney but across NSW.”

Clinical benefits of the da Vinci robot include reduced blood loss during surgery, reduced length of stay in hospital for patients post-surgery and easier surgical access to parts of the body that are often difficult to reach.

Mrs Skinner said Nepean Hospital will be involved in training the future generation of surgeons using robotics.

“We have listened to the advice of our clinicians and established a specialist centre for robotic surgery to help keep NSW at the forefront of surgical advancements in Australia and the world.”

The Nepean Centre for Robotic Surgery will be headed by Nepean Hospital’s Professor Mohamed Khadra.

“The centre creates a significant opportunity to establish best practice in surgery from around the world in Western Sydney,” Professor Khadra said.

“Patients in NSW will now have improved access to new technology and treatments. This can only be a good thing for patient-care and the public health system alike.

“Our private hospital colleagues who are already performing robotic surgery are reporting reduced length of stay for some urology patients, from 10 days down to three.”

Funding is being provided to Nepean Hospital via COAG's National Partnership Agreement *Improving Public Hospital Services* program, with ongoing costs to be funded by the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District.

The Federal Minister for Health, Tanya Plibersek, said the da Vinci robot is the latest investment by the Commonwealth Government in improving health services at Nepean Hospital.

"This investment includes over \$96 million into the new East Block, \$17 million into a new clinical school and \$14 million in new beds, all so that local people can get services when and where they need them," Ms Plibersek said.