



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday, 11 October 2012

#### **NEW WERRIS CREEK HEALTH SERVICE OFFICIALLY OPEN**

Patients and their families are set benefit from a range of health services following the opening of the \$11.2 million Werris Creek Multi-Purpose Service today, the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner said.

Mrs Skinner was today joined by the Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson and the Director General of NSW Health, Dr Mary Foley at the opening of the facility.

“Werris Creek now has access to one of the newest health services in the state. The Multi Purpose Service will provide a one-stop-shop for local patients and their families who will now have greater access to range of health and aged care services.

“This facility has been specially designed and purpose-built to meet the growing health care needs of the local community.

“Having a wide range of services under the one roof provides enormous benefits for patients and staff and I’m pleased it will give the community of Werris Creek a health facility that will meet their needs well into the future.

“It’s rewarding to see that construction has also boosted workforce opportunities, with local apprentices and Aboriginal tradespeople working at the facility,” Mrs Skinner said.

The new facility includes:

- A range of community health services
- Flexible consulting and examination rooms for use by general practitioners, nurses and other visiting health professionals
- Four inpatient beds (including provision for both respite and palliative care)
- 12 residential aged care beds
- A first aid treatment service
- Home and Community Care service
- Aboriginal health services
- Day centre
- Early Childhood Health Clinic
- Tele-health facilities
- Staff accommodation

Mr Anderson welcomed the opening of the new facility, saying locals will be able to access new services quickly and close to home.

“For some patients, it will be the first time they have been able to access these services locally when they need them.

“A lot of thought has gone into the planning of this facility to ensure all patients and aged care residents can receive top level care in convenient and comfortable new space

“Importantly, the MPS has provided 12 new residential aged places, which means older people who have lived in the Werris Creek district can stay in their local community and receive care close to loved ones,” Mr Anderson said.

The NSW Government has invested \$11.2 million to build the facility.