



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER PICTURES PROGRESS ON WAGGA WAGGA REDEVELOPMENT

The Health Minister, Jillian Skinner, today visited Wagga Wagga Base Hospital with the Member for Wagga Wagga, Daryl Maguire, to inspect progress on the \$282 million redevelopment.

Mrs Skinner launched schematic designs for the new hospital and took part in a planning session attended by local clinicians.

“Redevelopment work on Wagga Wagga Hospital is another reminder of the NSW Government delivering on its promise to improve health services and infrastructure across rural and regional NSW.

“It’s always rewarding to visit Wagga Wagga and see progress on this hospital and I can see firsthand how it is boosting morale for patients, staff and the wider community.”

The NSW Government has contributed \$215 million towards the redevelopment of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, which was complemented by a Commonwealth contribution of \$55.1 million. A further \$12 million has been allocated from the Commonwealth Government Sub-Acute Program for a 20 bed sub-acute Mental Health Unit.

While at the hospital, the Minister took the opportunity to attend the Women’s and Birthing User Group, an initiative which enables hospital staff to provide input on clinical and operational planning.

“The NSW Government is committed to ensuring our health workers have a say in the future of their hospitals and this user group is a perfect example of this commitment being put into action,” Mrs Skinner said.

Mr Maguire said substantial progress has been made on Phase 1 of the redevelopment, with the concrete slabs currently being poured at the mental health unit.

“It’s amazing to see this structure beginning to come out of the ground and take shape. Soon it will be delivering real benefits for our community,” Mr Maguire said.

“Works underway at Wagga Wagga Hospital show that the NSW Government is getting on with the job of rebuilding our health services.”

The new hospital will provide the platform for new models of care focused on the needs of patients including:

- Increased capacity for mental health beds and additional acute overnight inpatient capacity
- Expanded emergency department
- New renal facility
- Expanded operating theatre suite including recovery capacity
- Cardiac catheterisation laboratory & angiography suite
- Women's and children's inpatient unit additional birthing suites
- Expansion of the central sterilising services department
- Expanded medical imaging department and additional car parking

The Mental Health unit is expected to be complete in the second half of 2013, with the acute hospital construction under way in late 2013.