



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Tuesday, 11 December 2012

#### **MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW PATIENT LOUNGE FACILITY**

While visiting Northern NSW today, Health Minister Jillian Skinner announced \$350,000 for the development of a new combined Awaiting Results and Discharge Lounge facility at The Tweed Hospital.

Mrs Skinner, who was joined by Tweed MP Geoff Provest and Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health Melinda Pavey, said the innovative facility will be located at the front of the hospital, between the emergency department (ED) and the main entrance.

“It’s great to visit The Tweed Hospital today to announce funding for this important facility,” Mrs Skinner said.

“As a result of this new facility, patients at The Tweed Hospital will no longer have to wait for their results in an emergency department bed.

“The new lounge will be staffed by two registered nurses and medical supervision is provided by the emergency department and the inpatient medical teams.

“It will improve patient flow and free up bed capacity for patients arriving at the hospital needing urgent care.”

Mr Provest said the Awaiting Results and Discharge Lounge will consist of 12 awaiting results chairs and a combination of 12 discharge lounge chairs and beds.

“This new facility will go a long way to ensuring local patients are comfortable and assisting their journey through the hospital.

“I’m sure it will assist Tweed Hospital to build on its already improving access and triage performance,” he said.

Northern NSW Local Health District chief executive Chris Crawford said clinicians and management have been working together to develop this unique way of achieving better usage of in-patient and emergency department beds.

“The hospital has improved the number of patients who exit its emergency department within four hours from 61 per cent to 69 per cent and it is estimated that this new facility will further increase this figure,” he said.

Ms Pavey said work on the facility will begin in January 2013 and is expected to be complete in May.

“This addition to The Tweed Hospital represents a win for regional patients and their families.”