



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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INTERIM UPGRADE FOR LISMORE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Member for Lismore Thomas George today announced a \$2.95 million upgrade to Lismore Hospital's emergency department.

Mrs Skinner said the upgrade will assist Lismore Hospital to improve patient flow until the major redevelopment of the hospital is complete in 2016.

"This upgrade will expand the emergency department floor space by around 40 per cent and allow for the construction of an interim seven-bed emergency medicine unit (EMU)," Mrs Skinner said.

"This interim emergency department upgrade demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to ensure that high quality health services are available to Lismore and neighbouring communities.

"In May this year, Mr George and I announced a further \$20 million contribution from the NSW Government and an additional \$60 million under the Australian Government's Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) had been secured for this significant upgrade to Lismore Hospital.

"It's wonderful to be back at Lismore today to see progress being made on the hospital for the benefit of patients, staff and the local community."

Mr George said the new emergency department, which will more than triple the size of the existing space, is the centrepiece of the \$80 million stage 3 redevelopment of Lismore Hospital and will be available to patients in 2016.

"The interim upgrade to the emergency department begins in April, with full completion and operation of the emergency medicine unit expected in February 2014.

"This interim space will be of great benefit to patients and staff as a precursor to the delivery of the hospital's new emergency department.

"This announcement is a boost for our community and it's great to have the minister here today visiting our region," Mr George said.

The upgrade of Lismore Hospital will include an expansion of the emergency department, which will include a 12-bed emergency medical unit, improved renal dialysis capacity and community and primary health services in new facilities.