



# **Jillian Skinner MP**

## **Minister for Health**

## **Minister for Medical Research**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **NEW ERA FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION BEGINS AT CONCORD**

A state-of-the-art medical education centre for student doctors, nurses and allied health workers was officially opened on the grounds of Concord Hospital today in a partnership between the University of Sydney, NSW and federal governments.

The \$11.5 million Concord Medical Education Centre is the first of its kind to provide such technologically advanced training facilities on a teaching hospital campus.

“In a year when a record number of medical graduates will be offered places to train in NSW hospitals, it gives me great pleasure to be here to see this centre opened today and to know it will help shape the medical leaders of tomorrow,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The centre gives students in Sydney and across regional NSW immediate access, via teleconferencing, to the latest medical research, education and training.

“The cardiac resuscitation training laboratory can simulate emergency centre presentations and features an operating theatre environment where a hi-tech dummy can be connected to monitors, injected with drugs, intubated or given cardiac massage.

“The skills laboratories prepare students before seeing a patient, allowing scenarios to be developed and played out to cover critical aspects of patient care.”

“The acquisition of knowledge and clinical skills will be enhanced by the clustering of lecture theatres, a 140-seat auditorium, tutorial rooms, research library, a pathology museum and clinical skills laboratories and social spaces,” Mrs Skinner said.

“And it is exciting to see a video studio included, to broadcast and record training sessions for students in regional NSW, not to mention other Sydney teaching hospitals.”

Sydney Local Health District chief executive Teresa Anderson said she was honoured to host the centre at Concord Hospital as the district had a long history of valuing education and training and ensuring excellence in healthcare.

“This is very exciting for everyone at Sydney Local Health District because, while Concord Clinical School has more than 200 medical students from the University of Sydney plus students from the University of Western Sydney attending in their final year, this centre will also help train interns, junior doctors, specialist trainees, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals undergoing continuing education.

“I’m also very pleased to say that the initial impetus and funding for this centre came from medical staff at Concord Hospital and the local community who wanted to honour their former colleague Associate Professor Geoff Marel, known for his dedication to the education of young doctors,” Dr Anderson said.

“Associate Professor Marel died suddenly in 1999 but would no doubt be very proud to see this project come to fruition today.”