



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### HEALTH OF NSW ON PAR AT HOME AND INTERNATIONALLY

Health Minister Jillian Skinner said a new report released today by the Bureau of Health Information demonstrates that the state's health care system compares well in Australia and internationally.

The *Healthcare in Focus 2012* report compares NSW with states across Australia as well as 10 other countries.

"It is heartening to see that the hard-work of our state's doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and hospital staff is paying off and ensuring our health care system is on par and in some cases better than those across the globe," Mrs Skinner said.

"Another encouraging element of the report shows that the majority of NSW patients rate their experience in the health system positively."

Other highlights of the *Healthcare in Focus 2012* report include:

- Fewer years of life were lost to heart disease than almost all other comparative countries;
- NSW has one of the lowest rates of potential years of life lost to cancer;
- Rates of sepsis infection in NSW are about 40 per cent lower than the average across the country;
- Fewer years of life were lost to stroke in NSW than in almost all other comparative countries.

"The report also states that in 2010-11, 35 per cent of NSW patients reported visiting an emergency department for care that a GP could provide, more than patients in eight of the ten other countries compared in the survey," Mrs Skinner said.

"It's clear the Commonwealth Government must invest more in after-hours GP services for NSW patients to curb the influx of patients in our emergency departments.

"Health care is not just about hospitals – it's a multi-disciplinary service and that means all levels of government must work together to ensure all methods of care are adequately available to patients across the state.

"There is always room for improvement and this is why the NSW Government is investing a record \$17.3 billion in our health system this financial year to foster the best, quality care close to home for our patients," Mrs Skinner said.