



# **Kevin Humphries MP**

## **Minister for Mental Health**

## **Minister for Healthy Lifestyles**

## **Minister for Western NSW**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **SOUTH EAST RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM UPGRADED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Residents across South East NSW will have increased access to vital health, mental health and drug and alcohol services at the \$170 million South East Regional Hospital (SERH), Minister for Mental Health Kevin Humphries said today.

The new South East Regional Hospital is a joint initiative of the Australian and NSW Government's under the Health and Hospitals Fund, with the Australian Government providing \$160.1 million and \$10 million provided by the NSW Government.

The hospital will deliver many upgrades to local health services including an expanded emergency department, while also providing increased inpatient and community mental health services and 20 new mental health inpatient beds.

"The fact that the SERH will include 12 acute and eight sub-acute beds is a big win for the South Coast region," Mr Humphries said.

"The NSW Government is committed to providing increased mental health services to the people of NSW no matter where they live, and this announcement ensures the mental health needs of the people of the South Coast will be met."

The South East Regional Hospital is expected to be complete in early 2016 and will include:

- An expanded emergency department including an emergency medical unit;
- An expanded intensive care / critical care service
- Additional medical and surgical beds
- A new and dedicated rehabilitation service
- Dedicated palliative care beds
- An expanded mental health service
- Expanded medical oncology unit
- Expanded renal dialysis unit
- An upgraded maternity and neonatal unit
- An upgraded paediatric unit and
- An expansion of primary and community health care and ambulatory services.

"When opened in 2016, the hospital will provide effective and local mental health care for people throughout the region and reduce the need for patients to travel away from their homes and families to the mental health unit in Goulburn, which currently occurs on a regular basis," Mr Humphries said.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner said Bega and surrounding communities will have better access to integrated mental health care.

“A Mental Health Emergency Care Service will also provide face-to-face mental health services in the Emergency Department and increase support to ED staff in Eurobodalla and Cooma-Monaro through the use of modern telemedicine,” Mrs Skinner said.

Mr Humphries said the hospital’s expanded community mental health, drug and alcohol services will provide prevention and promotion, education, counselling, withdrawal management, opioid treatment and drug and alcohol consultation-liaison services.

“I congratulate the Member for Bega, Andrew Constance, who has been a tireless advocate for improved mental health services in his electorate, and who has pushed to ensure this upgrade is included in the SERH development.”

Mr Constance said the announcement reflects the NSW Government’s commitment to providing increased mental health services and infrastructure throughout the State.

“This fantastic announcement is a major step towards improving mental health services in the Bega electorate. I am pleased that residents will have access to services that will meet their needs well into the future,” Mr Constance said.