



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Tuesday, 22 January 2013

#### **LABOR & HSU MISLEAD ON HEALTH BUDGET**

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today expressed disappointment that the Health Services Union and Opposition were continuing to scaremonger about the NSW health budget.

“The budget has increased this year by 5.4 per cent to a record \$17.3 billion,” Mrs Skinner said.

“This, along with better use of existing health resources through efficiency savings, will be used to provide care for an anticipated 50,000 extra emergency patients, 30,000 extra overnight hospital patients and 2,000 extra elective surgeries.

“Labor and the HSU continue to claim that \$3 billion is being ‘cut’ out of the NSW health system. They know this is not true.

“Over four years, \$2.2 billion in efficiency savings will be made in health to be reinvested in frontline services. This money will be staying within the NSW health system and is not a ‘cut’.

“There is a labour expense cap of \$775 million over four years - \$89 million this year. All portfolios across the NSW Government have been tasked to make these labour expense cap savings to restore the state’s finances and ensure we live within our means.

“Local health districts have been given control over how they redirect the \$2.2 billion to create greater efficiencies in the health budget.”

These savings will be achieved by implementing improved models of care aimed at:

- reducing hospital infection rates
- reducing avoidable admissions
- a greater focus on preventive health
- delivering new innovations in health resulting in better patient outcomes and greater efficiency

These savings will also be achieved in other ways including:

- the elimination of duplication in administrative areas
- the implementation of systems and processes which create greater efficiency in the back office
- the employment of permanent staff instead of using more expensive temporary/contract employees