



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 8 February, 2013

MINISTER OFFICIALLY OPENS MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DIAGNOSTIC SCANNER

Health Minister Jillian Skinner has officially opened a multi-million dollar PET/CT scanner at Prince of Wales Hospital.

The state-of-the-art, combined Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and Computed Tomography (CT) scanner will be available to patients from across the state who are referred to the three hospitals of the Randwick Hospitals Campus – Prince of Wales Hospital, Royal Hospital for Women and Sydney Children's Hospital.

It will allow greater accuracy in diagnosis of cancer and coronary artery disease and will avoid unnecessary radiation exposure in patients.

The \$5.9 million PET/CT scanner project was largely funded by the NSW Government, with significant contributions from a Prince of Wales Hospital trust fund and the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation.

Prior to cutting the ribbon to officially open the scanner, Mrs Skinner unveiled a plaque to honour two childhood cancer survivors - Jayde Bell, 13, and Cambell McMaster, 14.

Jayde, who was diagnosed at age nine with Ewing's sarcoma, helped raise awareness of childhood cancer by meeting then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and writing to Prince William and Prince Harry.

Cambell, who was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma at age eight, became a dedicated fundraiser, including through a sponsored Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb.

"I am delighted Jayde and Cambell are so well and I thank them for their determined advocacy. They displayed maturity beyond their years," Mrs Skinner said.

"This scanner will make an enormous difference to the lives of paediatric and adult patients alike and demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to technology that can enhance the level of patient care."

"But machines and new technologies are nothing without the skill and dedication of those who operate them and here in Randwick we have some of the very best."

Mrs Skinner was joined at the opening by Member for Coogee Bruce Notley-Smith and Member for Vaucluse Gabrielle Upton.

"The combined PET/CT scanner is acknowledged as the highest level of clinical diagnostic technology available," Mr Notley-Smith said. "I am very pleased that patients in our community will no longer have to go elsewhere to access this technology."

Ms Upton said: "It is great news for patients who are referred to the three Randwick hospitals, whether they are from the city or country, that there will be this new technology, as well as the expertise, to help them."

