



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 15 February 2013

PATIENTS MUST COME FIRST

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today welcomed the Australian Medical Association's call to end the blame game when it comes to hospital performance.

"Patients and their family members in the state's hospitals care little about the tit-for-tat blame game between the states and Commonwealth," Mrs Skinner said.

"What they want is the best possible care and the best way governments can deliver that is by working hand-in-hand for the benefit of patients.

"We have much to learn from each other, particularly in tough economic times."

Mrs Skinner said the Australian Medical Association *Public Hospital Report Card* illustrated there have been improvements in NSW performance.

"NSW has a busy hospital system which soaks up 34 per cent of all emergency activity across the country and our performance in this area is strong," Mrs Skinner said.

"Our performance in triage three (urgent patients to be seen within 30 minutes of admission) is still considerably better than the national average of 66 per cent and only second best to Victoria.

"We still have some way to go but I have complete faith in our doctors, nurses and hospital staff who are working hard to reach their goals and meet specific targets.

"I have always said that NSW is committed to meeting the Commonwealth's emergency department targets but this will not be at the expense of best patient care.

"The NSW Government is committed to enhancing the state's health system – this year alone we have recruited an additional 2000 new nurse graduates who are among the extra 3000 we have working in our hospitals since we came to government.

"We have increased the state health budget by 5.2 per cent to \$17.3 billion, with more than \$1 billion to be spent this year re-building our hospitals.

"I look forward to working more closely with the AMA, as well as the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, to develop ways to enhance the NSW health system.

"There is a lot to learn by looking back at hospital performance but now is the time for all levels of government to look forward, with the patient at the forefront of everything we do," Mrs Skinner said.